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A HOME WEEKLY

FOR WINTER NIGHTS
AND
SUMMER DAYS.

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No. 288.



With his terrible war-cries, and a revolver in each hand, he charged directly upon the astonished savages.

DEADLY-EYE, THE UNKNOWN SCOUT; OR, The Branded Brotherhood.

BY BUFFALO BILL,

(Hon. Wm. F. Cody,) the Celebrated Scout, Guide, and Hunter-Author.

CHAPTER IV.

RUNNING THE GANTLET.
"EVERY MAN TO HIS POST."
It was the clear and commanding voice of the Unknown Scout that gave the order, and the effect upon the pioneers was electrical, while they felt that in him they had a leader who fully understood the cunning of the Indians, and whose bravery was upon every tongue on the frontier.

True, strange stories were told of the remarkable man, and the Indians, and a few bordermen, held the superstitious idea that he was leagued with the Evil One, for, around his whole life hung a mystery, the curtain of which none could raise.
Frequently he had aided frontiersmen and also wagon-trains moving through the Indian country, and also had given warning to settlements of the coming of the red-skin and the Branded Brotherhood; but that he was looked upon by the military with some suspicion—was known to be on intimate terms with many Indian warriors, and had often been seen in close vicinity to the stronghold of Ricardo and his cruel band, were acknowledged facts.

Still, the emigrants were glad that Deadly-Eye was with them, and his having just rescued from captivity two of their train, caused them to look most kindly upon him.
"Scout, you are well accustomed to scenes like this one about to be forced upon us, and I would have you take command," cried Major Conrad, advancing quickly to the side of the Unknown Scout, who glanced out upon the prairie toward the coming Indians, as he replied:

"Fortunately the train is in *corral*, sir, and the men are ready for a fight. I would advise that the women and children be placed under cover of the river-bank yonder, and the rattle will also protect the horses and cattle, while, with the wagons for a breastwork, the men can hold out splendidly."

This advice was acted upon, and in a few moments the camp was ready for action.

Stationing himself upon the outer edge of the line of wagons, Deadly-Eye was seen to suddenly raise his repeating rifle; a quick aim,

a shot, and a painted warrior fell from his horse, and the yell of exultation from the emigrants was answered by a series of wild war-whoops from the infuriated Indians.

"Now, Major Conrad, you see that I knew yonder renegade guide well, for he is doubtless the leader of the approaching band of red-skins, and was guiding you into a trap," said the Unknown Scout.

"We have much to thank you for, sir; but the Indians have halted."

"Yes, they are too wary to charge these lines in the daytime, and—"

"And what, sir?" asked Major Conrad, as the Scout paused thoughtfully.

"And by nightfall I can bring relief, for not many miles from here is a band of Pawnees hunting buffalo."

"But, sir, you can never escape from here, for see, the Indians are beginning to surround us, and two separate parties are swimming the river."

The Unknown Scout took in the scene at once, and then said quietly:

"You must hold the red devils at bay. Mind, act only on the defensive, and I will run the gantlet of their fire, and bring what relief I can."

A shrill whistle followed, and the steed of Deadly-Eye trotted up to his master, and stood ready for his command.

Remonstrance with the Scout was useless, for after another warning to all, he sprang into his saddle and rode down to the river.

A word of encouragement to Prairie Gull, and the noble animal bounded into the clear waters, and was soon swimming bravely toward the other shore, followed by the eyes of all the emigrants, who were waiting God speed to the daring man periling his life to aid them.

Ere half the river was crossed the Indians discovered the Scout, and with discordant yells the two parties, one up and the other down the stream, rushed to cut him off ere he could escape.

The Scout observed their intention but kept bravely on, urging his horse however to swim still faster.

Leading one of these parties who were rushing toward the point where the Scout was to land, was the traitor guide, Red Dick, who now seemed to feel assured that his revenge would be satisfied, for he urged his large roan forward at a tremendous pace, quickly shooting ahead of the inferior horses ridden by the red-skins.

Soon the Scout reached the other shore, and dismounting, the horsehook himself like a huge Newfoundland dog.

Then the girths were tightened, and the holster pistols returned to their places; after which the Scout mounted as coolly as though almost certain death did not stare him in the face.

The deadly rifle was raised, and with quick aim fired in the direction of the band furthest off. A red brave threw up his arms and fell from his steed, to be trampled upon by those behind.

Again the rifle rung out, and the large roan ridden by Red Dick was seen to stagger, stumble, and then go heavily down, hurling his giant rider with terrible force upon the ground.

From the lips of Deadly-Eye then broke forth his wild and blood-stirring war-whoop of defiance, and away bounded Prairie Gull, keeping an equal distance between the two lines rushing furiously upon him and hardly more than two hundred yards distant.

"On, on my good steed, for you have a brave duty to perform, and the bright eyes of beauty are upon you," cried Deadly-Eye, as he turned in his saddle and glanced back toward the camp. Seeing this action the pioneers gave him three hearty cheers, which the Indians answered with their discordant yells.

"But, what is the daring rider going to do? Has his courage failed him? Is he mad?"

Such were the hurried questions that burst from the astonished emigrants' lips, as they saw Deadly-Eye suddenly come to a halt, and coolly gaze first upon one side and then upon the other.

In surprise, also, the Indians saw him halt, and their superstitious minds were impressed with the idea that he was laughing at their efforts to take him, and intended to escape by

some supernatural means unknown to them, for, often before had they known him to elude them when in their very grasp.

With their leader dismounted, and apparently hurt, for Red Dick was seated beside his dead horse, the Indians hardly knew what to do, and as they drew nearer and nearer to the mysterious Scout, they gradually checked the speed of their horses, until the smaller party, consisting of a dozen braves, came to a halt, and with wondering eyes and wild gestures, seemed to be holding a council of war.

This was what Deadly-Eye had doubtless expected, for, as soon as the squadron halted, he wheeled Prairie Gull directly toward them, and with the air ringing and echoing with his terrible war-cries, and a revolver in each hand, charged directly upon the astonished savages, and added to their consternation by opening a brisk and telling fire upon them, which proving fatal in several instances with horses and riders, the frightened braves turned and fled, and with the speed of an arrow the Unknown Scout rushed on toward the open prairie, having safely run the terrible gantlet.

Then, as the emigrants looked with eager eyes, they beheld the cause of the sudden movement of Deadly-Eye, for directly in his former path arose the forms of a dozen painted warriors, doubtless of the same band, and who were hiding in a shallow gulch and would have sprung up in the pathway of the Scout, had not his quick eye detected the plumed head of some brave too eager to catch his prey to keep wholly concealed.

Long watched the emigrants the flying Prairie Gull, and they saw with pleasure that the Indians quickly gave up the chase, for the famous steed of the Scout left them rapidly behind, and in an hour appeared as a mere speck upon the prairie.

CHAPTER V.

THE HUNTER'S CABIN HOME.

Far from the home of his kindred, far from the home of his race, and in the wilds where the red-man roamed without restraint, was the cabin home of Alfred Carter.

Three years before the opening scenes of this story, Alfred Carter had squatted upon the banks of the Republican river, and with the aid of only his brave wife and pretty daughter, Rose, and his young son, Edgar, he had built a stout and comfortable cabin, half fort, half house.

The prairies around him furnished food for his small family, and his cattle roamed near at hand until the shades of evening caused them to be housed for safety.

A quiet, sad-looking man, ever generous and peaceable, Alfred Carter had no enemies, and even the Sioux were friendly to him, although at war with the whites, for the settler had often fed them from his table, and when their great chief was severely wounded and would have died for want of care, Alfred Carter had nursed him back to life, and forever won his friendship.

Seated in the cabin door, upon the day that the Unknown Scout ran the gantlet of the band of Sioux warriors, was a maiden of eighteen, with large velvety eyes, a dark complexion, and long waving black hair.

The maiden was Rose Carter. She was engaged in knitting a pair of cotton socks for her father, for she was a true frontier girl, ever industrious and brave.

Presently a shadow fell upon her, and glancing up, Rose beheld beside her an Indian maiden of sixteen, a beautiful child of the forest, with a graceful, slender form, clothed in a handsome suit of bead-wrought buck-skin, and with a crown of richly-colored feathers upon her head.

"Who are you, girl, and what can I do for you?" said Rose, softly, struck with the great beauty and grace of the Indian maiden.

"I am the Red Bud of the Forest, the child of the mighty Pawnee chief, and I have come from my village beyond the prairie to tell the pale-face maiden to beware of the false tongue of the pale-face brave with eyes like the skies, for he would lead her from her happy home."

"Of whom do you speak, Red Bud of the Forest?" said the mystified Rose.

"Of the white brave whom the Forest Rose

loves as she does the sunshine, the trees, the birds, the rivers. He has a false tongue, so let the White Rose beware. Red Bud of the Forest has spoken," and without another word the Indian girl turned and glided away, turning no ear to the call of Rose Carter, who pleaded for her to return.

Long sat the lovely girl, pondering over what she had heard, and wondering if she could refer to one whom she loved most dearly, and who was then absent, and had been for months, gone to the Eastern settlements for awhile ere he returned to make her his wife.

Then over her face stole a look of distrust of him who had won her young heart, for the words of the Forest Red Bud had left a deep impression.

Presently her mother returned from milking the cows, and Alfred Carter from a day's hunt, loaded down with game, while her brother, two years the junior of Rose, came up from the river with a long string of fish.

Then night shades fell upon the earth, and around the well-spread board gathered the settler's family—the cheerful fire, comfortable room, and pleasant faces presenting a happy and homelike scene, and yet the same feeling of dread, of coming evil, clutched at the heart of Rose Carter, and the smile upon her face was forced.

Presently there was a loud bark from the watchful dog without, a shot followed, a yelp, and then heavy blows upon the door.

Springing to their feet, the father and son seized their rifles, while the mother and daughter in considerable alarm awaited the result.

"Who is it that thus comes to my cabin?" cried Alfred Carter, in a stern voice.

"Open your door, old man, or it will be the worse for you," replied a coarse voice outside.

"And why should I open my door to you? Had you come as a friend you would have been welcome; but as you come as a foe I will meet you as you deserve."

"The Branded Brotherhood parley not long, old man," suddenly rung out in a clear, stern voice, and with a few heavy blows from without the door crashed in, and one of the Brotherhood rushed across the threshold, to fall dead with a shot from Edgar's rifle through his heart.

Another shared the same fate, at the hands of Alfred Carter, and then into the cabin poured a score of desperate men, and the brave old settler fell beneath a sweeping blow of Ricardo's knife, just as Red Burke brought the butt of his pistol down upon the head of Edgar.

"Ha! spare the women!" cried Ricardo; but, alas! the order was too late to save poor Mrs. Carter, who, with a shriek of terror and agony, met her death at the hands of one of the band, while another seized the fainting Rose around the waist, crying:

"I've got the richest prize; the gal's mine." One glance into the beautiful face, and Ricardo, the bandit chief, staggered back, his hand upon his head, while he cried aloud:

"God in heaven! who is that girl?"

"It don't make no difference, chief, who she mout be, but she's my prize," insolently replied the ruffian, who still held her in his arms.

"Release that maiden instantly, sir," cried Ricardo, his face strangely pale and stern.

"You bet I won't do it!" replied the man.

A quick shot followed, a cry of agony, and a stream of hot blood burst from a bullet-wound in the head of the renegade, as he fell dead, still clutching in his strong arms the fainting form of Rose Carter.

"Take that girl from that hound's grasp, and see to it, Red Burke, that no harm befall her, for if there does there shall be weeping and wailing in this band," and thus saying, the robber chief set to work to examine the contents of the cabin, for, to gain booty had this raid been made by the Branded Brotherhood upon the quiet home of poor Alfred Carter.

It did not take long for those experienced hands to go through the humble cabin, and then the order was given to mount. The band departed, Ricardo at their head, and by his side, mounted upon her own horse, which the chief had ordered saddled for her, was the weeping Rose, who had returned to consciousness to find her parents and brother slain, and herself in the power of the bandit chief.

Strangely soft and kind was Ricardo's manner toward the sorrowing girl, but he was nevertheless so firm in his purpose that she had to accompany him to his stronghold. What would be her fate she dared not think, as she rode quietly along with the bitter, scalding tears coursing down her fair cheeks, and a terrible dread at her heart.

Swiftly on rode the band of the Branded Brotherhood, taking a course down the river, until the quick ear of the chief detected distant firing, and he suddenly drew rein.

"What can that mean?" he cried, striving to pierce the darkness of the prairie in the direction of the sound.

"I'll tell you, chief: it's the train being pitched into by some roving band of Infjuns, and if we want any of the goods we'd better ride for it, kase you see thar's a host of redskins whar all that shootin' is going on."

"You are right, Long Dave, and the train is bearing to the southward, contrary to our expectations; so come on, and we'll drive off the redskins and then whip out the settlers."

A yell of joy answered the words of the chief, for the men were anxious to get a chance to make a capture of the wagon-train, which Long Dave had reported to be an exceedingly rich one in supplies of all kinds, and money.

Almost with the speed of the wind the cavalcade spurred on, Ricardo leaving Rose with a guard, and the led horses bearing the booty taken in the recent foraging expeditions of the band.

An hour's ride, and the flashes of distant firing were visible, and the rapid discharges proved that the battle was raging most savagely, and that the defenders of the wagon-train were holding out most bravely against the overwhelming numbers that were attacking them.

CHAPTER VI.

THE BATTLE FOR VICTORY.

As Long Dave had said, the settlers' train had been attacked by the Indians—the same band that had besieged them all day, awaiting for night to come on so that they could attack them with greater safety to themselves and less danger of defeat, for Red Dick, having recovered partially from the effects of his severe fall, was determined that he would yet be revenged upon all who had witnessed his disgraceful departure from his position as guide.

Wistfully had the eyes of the emigrants scanned the prairie all that long day, in hopes of seeing the coming of the Unknown Scout and reinforcements; but night came and no succor was visible, and with determined manner the men set to work to defend to the end of their lives their families and their riches.

As soon as it was dark the Indians commenced the attack, and charged boldly down upon

the train; but during the day the emigrants had strongly fortified their position, and after a sharp and short fight the attacking party fell back.

Yet they did not dream of defeat, and their savage minds began to plot various methods of taking the settlers at a disadvantage, for the Indians never care to fight an open battle if he can gain his ends by cunning and strategy.

Falling in one plan after the other, Red Dick at length determined to lead one desperate charge, in column, hoping to break through the line by mere weight and numbers, and he was preparing his red allies for the work, when suddenly a cry of alarm was heard in their rear, and up dashed the Branded Brotherhood, with their desperate chief at their head.

The Sioux warriors at first thought they were attacked by a troop of soldiers, and began to scatter in all directions, when the loud voice of Red Dick recalled them, for he recognized the commanding form of Ricardo, and riding up to him, cried:

"Hullo, chief! have you come to aid me in a division of the spoils?"

Ricardo turned his keen look upon the renegade, and apparently recognizing him, replied: "You are then leading this attack upon my wagon-train, renegade?"

"Your train, chief? Not so fast—for I guided this train from Kansas City," replied Red Dick.

"Yes, guided them into a trap, for you are backed by your band of Dog Soldier Sioux, I see."

"And they'll stick by me too, you bet, chief. Once, I owed allegiance to you, but I got tired of hard knocks and little pay, so I sided with these Infjuns and they made me their chief, and they've been waiting for me to bring out this train for weeks. Now, I tell you, they are a little too strong for me, I admit, for we've tried 'em for some time; but there's honor among thieves, you know, chief, and I'll share squarely with you and the boys if you give me a lift."

"Red Dick, you are a fool, to think I would share a prize with you and your red hounds. True, there was a truce between your band of red devils and my men; but you are a deserter from my ranks, and if you do not immediately draw off your band, I'll shoot you down as I would a dog, and then scalp every one of your gang that I can catch," and Ricardo spoke sternly, and turning to Red Burke, his lieutenant, gave an order in a low voice.

"Now, look here, boss, you don't hold the ace as much as you think, 'cause my redskins ain't a-going to 'low no foolishness, if we has to fight for it, and as to killing a fellow like a dog, why, two kin play at that game, and no questions axed."

As Red Dick spoke, he gave a loud war-whoop, and leveled his pistol at Ricardo, who as quick as lightning had his own weapon covering the head of the renegade, and quietly, but threateningly, the two men stood at bay, while around them gathered their separate bands.

What might have been the result of this impromptu duel between the two chiefs, it would be hard to say, for, just at that moment there was a terrific discharge of firearms, fired in regular order, a loud cheering, a rushing of hoofs, and ere the surprised Indians and bandits could offer any resistance, a squadron of cavalry charged through their line, firing as they rode, and dashing swiftly toward the camp, the next moment were safe within the fortifications, while cheer after cheer rung out from the rejoicing emigrants.

"Cuss on it, chief! While we're quarreling here like two tomcats on a fence, that cussed Captain La Clyde and his troopers has gotten through our line and reinforced the emigrants," growled Red Dick savagely, at the same time lowering his pistol.

"That is true, Red Dick, and after all, we had better unite our forces and wage a common war upon the train," responded Ricardo; but it was too dark for his foe to see the evil look of mischief that flashed in his eyes.

"I'm agreed, boss, kase you see it's no use talking about us rooting out that nest of hornets unless we jine forces."

"Very well," Red Dick said. "Now, my plan is: that you take the greater part of your redskins up the river above the camp, and taking to the water swim down and attack them from that quarter, while I keep up a constant fire upon them in our front, and when you have landed and give the signal, I will charge with my men, aided by those you leave with me."

"It's a good plan, Ricardo, and we'll set out at once," replied Red Dick, and accompanied by the greater number of his savage men, the desperado strode away, leaving a small guard over his horses.

As cunning as was Red Dick, and as wicked, he was no match for Ricardo, who had not anticipated that the chief would betray him; but hardly had the renegade and his red allies been gone fifteen minutes, when the remaining Indians had been quietly surrounded by the Branded Brotherhood, and wholly unsuspecting treachery, were suddenly terrified by being unexpectedly set upon by those whom they believed their friends.

Without warning, the Brotherhood instantly rushed upon the Indian warriors, and ere the slightest resistance could be offered, a score of them lay dead upon the prairie; but still the work of slaughter went on, until the few remaining savages crouched together in dismay, not knowing which way to turn, for, although it was the Indian method of surprise and massacre, the defenders of the train had never before had the tables turned upon them.

"Kill every cursed red heathen; leave not one to escape, and warn his companions," cried Ricardo. In vain did the terrified wretches attempt to break through the human barrier that surrounded them, for everywhere they were met by steel and bullet.

At length the slaughter ended, and with a grim and cruel smile, Ricardo turned to Red Burke, and said:

"Burke, yonder come the maiden and led horses, and I wish you to collect these Indian ponies, and with a guard of ten men move down the river to the next motte and await until you hear from me."

"That will leave you only forty men, chief, with which to tackle the camp and the Infjuns too."

"True, but I intend Red Dick and his crew, shall play Kilkenny cats with the settlers, and when they have about used each other up, I will be on hand to reap the spoils. Now be off at once, and mind you, Burke, treat that girl with every respect."

"I hear you, chief."

"And see that you heed; now I will be off with the men to the river-bank, and aid the settlers in driving off Red Dick and his devils."

"You wouldn't fire upon the redskins, chief?"

"Certainly; each one I slay is one out of my way to eventual success."

So saying, Ricardo called to his band to follow him, mounted his horse, and rode slowly in the direction of the camp.

Approaching within a hundred yards, under

cover of a few straggling trees, he sent Long Dave and his Indian scout on ahead, to creep up the river bank and give warning when Red Dick and his followers should attempt a landing.

He had not long to wait before the two scouts returned, and reported the river black with the heads of the attacking party, and then, lest the settlers should really be surprised, and the Indians take the camp without his aid, Ricardo gave a low order, and under cover of the bank the Brotherhood approached until they could indistinctly see the dark mass upon the water, which they knew to be the swimming warriors.

In the encampment all was as quiet as the grave, and every glimmer of light had disappeared; but, whether it was from negligence in keeping guard, or from watchfulness, none knew, and the chief felt that he had to be wary, for Captain La Clyde was known to be an expert and daring fighter, and might be setting some trap in which to catch his enemies.

Slowly and steadily the moving mass of heads swerved shoreward, the waters undisturbed by a single ripple, so quietly did the Indians swim, and at last several tall forms reached the shore and stood upright.

Others followed, and the braves were preparing for the deadly rush, their hearts beating with joy at the hope of success.

"Ain't true men; let every shot tell. Fire!"

In answer to the low, stern order of the bandit chief, a terrific volley rung forth from the river bank, and a withering hail of lead was poured upon the human mass, who seemed to sink beneath the deadly assault.

Then rung out the stentorian voice of Red Dick.

"At them, you red devils! Cut them into pieces!"

Rallying around their brave but wicked chief, the Dog Soldier Sioux, in spite of their deadly greeting, and fully relying upon the support of the Branded Brotherhood, rushed up the embankment, to be again and again driven back by the terrible fire poured upon them by the settlers.

Coolly, and with a cruel smile upon his lips, and deadly hatred in the glister of his eyes, Ricardo, the chief, stood with folded arms, gazing upon the combat unmoved by the scene of bloodshed his double treachery was causing.

"Ha, ha, ha," he laughed. "Did Red Dick think I, Ricardo, chief of the Branded Brotherhood, would share a prize with him and his red hounds. Little does he know me."

For some moments the fight continued, the redskins encouraged by Red Dick and his conspicuous courage, fighting as seldom men fight in a bad cause, and then even Indian human nature could stand no more, for half of their number had fallen; yet no cheering cry came from the other side of the camp to show that Ricardo had attacked as he had promised.

Suddenly the tall form of a warrior glided to the side of Red Dick, and said a few words in a hasty and excited tone, and the renegade's voice rung out loud and clear.

"Back, warriors! to the water all of you, for the Branded Brotherhood have betrayed us, and are laughing at us now."

Red Dick spoke in the Sioux tongue, and well did his dusky braves understand him. Seized with a panic of fear, they rushed headlong into the river, uttering yells of terror and fury.

Then again was heard the ringing order from Ricardo's trumpet-like voice.

"Fire upon them, men! Kill every red hound!"

Again the rifles of the Brotherhood flashed forth in livid flame, and between two fires the Sioux warriors melted away, and the river was stained dark with their blood, while only a few succeeded in reaching the other shore, and most of that number were bleeding from wounds received.

Among those few was Red Dick, and the rising moon showed upon his face a look of fiendish hatred and thirst for revenge, a revenge which he intended to devote his life to accomplish, for at last he fully understood the deep treachery of his evil ally.

"Come, braves; we are outcasts now, and must back to our village; but the day of retribution shall come for Ricardo and his band of robbers, for they have slain our young men, taken from us the spoils of battle, betrayed us to ruin and death, and brought wailing and sorrow into our wigwams. Come, warriors of the Sioux nation; we will go to our village."

No word in reply was uttered, but silently, like grim specters, the remnant of Red Dick's band of Dog Soldiers stole away across the moonlit prairie.

(To be continued—commenced in No. 287.)

Idaho Tom,

THE YOUNG OUTLAW OF SILVERLAND;
The Hunters of the Wild West.

BY OLL COOMES,

AUTHOR OF "DAKOTA DAN," "BOWIE-KNIFE BEN," "RED ROB," ETC., ETC.

CHAPTER XVI.

LIVELY TIMES AT THE WOLF-PEN.

"BOLD HEART, by Judas!" exclaimed Frank Caselton, in astonishment.

"How's this, old pard?" asked Wild Dick, both pleased and surprised by his appearance there.

"Blame me eyes if they don't see a traitor!" put in Billy, rubbing his optics as though he doubted what he saw.

"Bold Heart is still the friend of the pale-faces," the Indian said, with his old-time gravity, and speaking of himself in that true Indian way, the third person. "He has come to save you. Nearly all of the bad pale-face men who live here, have gone away. Bold Heart followed them a long ways. When they stop to talk, then Bold Heart creep up—hear 'um talk. Only one man left below; hear 'um say. That tickled Bold Heart. Then he more tickled when he heard 'um say white boys were here. Go steal three long lariats then—'tis 'um to gether—make long rope—'tis one end to tree on cliff—slip down rope—then swing, swing over wolf-pen and drop dab on wigwam roof. Waugh! Bold Heart here now—proud Infjun."

All readily understood this brief, disjointed story, for all had seen the daring youth swinging in mid-air over the wolf-pen—saw him spring through space, when he had gained momentum sufficient to carry him to the roof. But why he had run all this risk after deserting them and joining the foe, seemed a little strange to the boys.

"We saw your daring feat, Bold Heart," said Dick; "but what surprises me the most is your coming here after deserting us."

"Didn't desert," was the laconic reply.

"What did you leave us for, then?"

"Me go to git 'em," said the youth, drawing a greasy pack of cards from the bosom of his

hunting-shirt; "jist git 'em all picked up where Billy-boy scatter 'em, when bad Ingins come and catch me—take off my clothes—one put 'em on—look like me—jump up on stone and about much loud—make you believe him me. But me git away—hide in bushes—hear ole wolf-man talk—hear him tell all 'bout you."

"I thought it strange, Bold Heart," said Dick, "that you'd desert us; but now I see through it all. I believe every word you have told us, and hope I'll never have occasion to suspect you of treachery again."

"Begob, and yees are a jewil, Bold Heart, me by; but, how the nashin are wees going to git out av this hole?" demanded Billy.

"Climb rope—climb way upon top of rock," responded the Indian, proudly.

"But suppose the man whom you say is below, should discover and shoot us?"

"Tend to him first—now," was the rejoinder, and seizing the dangling rope, the Indian youth glided up to the roof, hand-over-hand, like a sailor. Billy, who had spent years at sea, and had not forgotten his learning, nor lost any of his dexterity in climbing a rope, followed Bold Heart's example, and scampered up the slender cord to the roof, with remarkable ease.

The Indian made no objection to the brave lad's company, and drawing up the rope from the room, he dropped it over the eave of the roof, when he and Billy carefully lowered themselves to the ground.

Bold Heart was provided with a hatchet and pair of revolvers. The latter he gave to Billy, and, thus armed, the two crept around the house and entered the building.

The man left to guard the place lay upon the floor in a half-drunken sleep, and by his side crouched four fierce-looking hounds that might have been a cross between the wolf and blood-hound.

The dogs started up as the boys entered, and manifested a disposition to dispute further intrusion. Their growling awoke the man, who, rising to a sitting posture, bade them be still, before he could fully take in the situation.

This gave the boys an advantage that proved the death of the outlaw. Bold Heart sprang forward and dealt him a blow that felled him to the floor. Then the Indian youth sprang quickly up the ladder, and was followed by Billy. This latter movement was made to escape the fangs of the dogs, which now charged upon them.

Fortunately they succeeded in gaining the loft with no other damage than that sustained by the seat of Billy's pantaloons.

Seating himself upon the top round of the ladder, and leaning his elbows on his knees, the young Celt amused himself by emptying chamber after chamber of his revolver at the dogs that were making frantic efforts to tear him from his perch. Nearly every shot either killed or wounded, and by the time the second weapon had been half emptied, the dogs all lay dead beside their master.

This left the coast entirely clear. Bold Heart unfastened the door and set his friends at liberty, when all went below and began an exploration of the house. They found all of their weapons, which they at once secured. Then they broke into the larder and helped themselves to what they could find. They rummaged the house over and over, in search of all the evidence they could obtain of the unlawful deeds of the Wolf-Header. They found many things that went to establish the fact that the place was the rendezvous of a band of robbers, as well as the stronghold of the Wolf-Header. In a little rose-wood box, inlaid with pearl, that Frank found under a pallet of furs in one corner, was a set of lady's jewelry of inestimable worth.

"There is no doubt some dark secret connected with this jewelry," Frank said; "my heart shudders to think of what suffering and torture some fair one—the owner of these jewels—might have undergone in the power of the demon Moloch. I shall take these diamonds; not that I want them myself, but in hopes that they may be restored to their owner; and if that owner is dead, that they may tell to anxious, waiting friends, the secret of the beloved one's disappearance."

After the Boy Hunters had fully satisfied their curiosity as to the nature of the place, a short consultation was held to consider the best way out of the rock-girded valley.

One would propose this way, and another that, but as no two could agree upon the same plan, it was finally left for Bold Heart to say how their escape from the valley should be made, since he had displayed such cunning and courage in getting into the stronghold.

"Climb rope to top of cliff—draw up rope, then robbers never know how we get away," was the quick decision of the renegade.

"I'll proceed to act upon this decision at once."

The little party hastily ascended to the roof of the house, where the shingles, removed by Bold Heart, were all carefully replaced.

The preliminaries for the ascent of the cliff having been arranged, Bold Heart proposed to go up first.

It was thirty feet or more from the roof to the top of the cliff, and all of twenty from the house to a perpendicular line with the point where the rope hung over the edge of the shelving heights. This made it necessary, in the first place, to swing off the roof before beginning the ascent, and also made it a dangerous undertaking for those not so skillful in climbing the rope as were Billy Brown and Bold Heart.

The quick, inventive mind of Bold Heart, however, soon conceived an idea that would entirely overcome this difficulty. An additional rope, or lariat, was procured from the room below and attached to the end of the other. This made the slender ladder long enough for one remaining on the roof to let the rope with its burden slowly until it came to a rest.

Bold Heart grasped the rope and was eased off the roof by Frank, who held the check-rope; and as soon as the Indian youth came to a rest, he began climbing up the rope with catlike ease and rapidity.

In half a minute he stood upon the top of the ledge—safe.

Frank drew the rope back to the roof and Perry went next. His ascent was attended with some difficulty, and at one time all hopes of his reaching the top were given up by those below. But the boy was plucky, and struggling onward and upward with a brave heart, he finally succeeded in reaching the summit of the ledge; but now that the danger was over, there came a reaction and he fell faint at the feet of Bold Heart.

Frank went next and Wild Dick followed him. Then their weapons were all attached to the rope and drawn up.

Billy was the only one now upon the roof, and the rope being returned to him, he grasped it and swung off the house.

For full a minute he swung to and fro over the wolf-pen, every way of his body being watched by a hundred pairs of hungry, burning eyes below; but, as soon as he came to a rest, the youth ran up the rope with the ease of a born sailor.

The little band were safe once more; and to Bold Heart's fearlessness, cunning and bravery did Billy, Frank, Dick and Perry owe their lives.

Drawing up the rope and concealing it in case of future need, the Boy Hunters shouldered their rifles and marched away toward Lake Tahoe.

CHAPTER XVII.

LOVE MESSAGES.

The birds of morning sung their sweetest songs, and the cool, fresh breeze came laden with the rich breath of the pine forest.

The cabin of the Mad Trapper, alone in the mountain vale, showed no signs of recent habitation save in the thin white column of smoke curling lazily up from the capacious chimney. The door was closed; the windows barred, and the whole pervaded with an air of silent desolation.

Buzzards wheeled in the air overhead—rising and falling in spiral circles, their naked coral necks outstretched, and their eyes fixed on the valley, as though by instinct they knew the prevailing silence boded the presence of death—something upon which to feast their filthy maws.

Idaho Tom, the Outlaw of Silverland, noted all this from his concealment on the northern bluff overlooking the valley, and a vague feeling of horror seized upon him.

"Something is wrong at the cabin of the Mad Trapper," the youth mused to himself. "The silence of death broods over and around all. I hadn't ought to leave here without first inquiring into the mystery that hangs over the cabin; nor I won't. But I will run down to the lake first. If she is well and safe, how thankful I will be!"

So saying, he passed from his concealment, and keeping around to the left of the cabin, moved briskly down to Lake Tahoe. He never paused until he stood upon the northern shore of Silver Bay.

Wildly beat his heart with joy, when he caught sight of the floating island; and wilder still beat the pulses when he caught a glimpse of a female form among the green shrubbery upon that island.

"Oh! if I could be permitted to speak but one word to her," the young outlaw sighed. "one word to her—the idol of my heart! I must let her know by some means or other that I am near. I will make a fool of myself in doing so, but I can't help it, if I lose all. Perhaps some would call this a boyish infatuation—Jack Hill does, come to think. They say all boys of my age are fools in their first love, and I reckon that's what's ailing me. But, I'll send her a token of my love—yes, by the ghost of Caesar—my love!"

He started around the bay in order to get the wind fair against the island. As he went along he gathered some light twigs and wove and tangled them into a kind of a wicker basket. This he lined with flakes of moss plucked from the tree-trunks. Then he gathered some wild flowers and arranged them into a tasteful bouquet, and this he placed in the basket along with a slip of paper upon which he had written with a pencil, these words:

"For the Lady of the Isle, from her friend, who is very desirous of some token of her respect."

Idaho Tom.

Tom placed the basket on the water, freighted with its message of love. The wind drove it slowly out upon the bosom of the beautiful bay, straight toward the little island.

The youth threw himself beneath the umbrageous boughs of a great pine to watch the passage of the little craft across the waters that separated him from his heart's idol.

An hour went by. To the impatient boy it seemed as though the drifting message-boat would never reach its destination.

Suddenly it occurred to him that if his note was answered by the same little transport, he would have to find it on the opposite shore, for the wind would drive it south of the island.

Feeling as though his hopes must be raised, he arose and made his way toward the lake to a point due south of the island. Here he waited and watched for fully another hour, and his heart gave a great throb of joy when he discovered a little white object flutter out from the island and drift rapidly toward him.

and all gone to the lake. I do wonder where I could find old Zedekiah Dea, the trapper?"

"Here I be, right here my young kid," was the response of a familiar voice behind him, and the Mad Trapper stepped from a covert of bushes and confronted the youth.

"By George, trapper, I am monstrous glad to see you!" exclaimed Tom, "how's times?"

"Magnificent, Thomas Idaho," was the trapper's response; "most comfoundedly lively, Idaho—skittish as a blind horse in fly-time, or a nigger in a hornet's nest. How's your pulse been a-throbbin' since the night of that little affair, Thomas?"

"Two hundred to the minute."

"Livin' purty fast then, ain't ye? Crowd in three years into one. Well, so jogs the world along, Tom, my gay young vagabond."

"This is a fast age, trapper; but it does seem to me that it's looking dull around your cabin."

"I've been sayin' so for some time. I left early this mornin', and when I hove to in that bush two minutes ago, something struck me under the scalp as being wrong. I don't know why I think so, Tom, but I am goin' to see about it. Won't you go down?"

"I will, certainly."

The two descended the bluff, crossed the valley and approached the cabin. At the door they paused and listened. All was still within. The Mad Trapper pulled the latch-string, opened the door and cautiously entered the cabin.

"Jews an' Gentiles! Lord of Israel, preserve me!" burst from the lips of the old borderman, as his eyes fell upon two forms—two human forms—seated before the fire-place.

Both were white men. They were seated upon chairs, or rather tied their hands with their faces turned toward the fire. Their hands hung idly over their knees. Their chins rested upon their breasts. One of them held an empty pipe in one hand, while the other held a slip of paper.

"Asleep, are they, Zed?" said Tom; "been out on a social drunk?"

The trapper shook his head, gravely, then he spoke to the two men, but they stirred not. He laid his hand upon one's shoulder and shook him, or tried to, for the man was stark and stiff.

"They're both dead, Tom," the trapper said, in a low, husky tone. "This is the hellish work of that fiend incarnate, Molock."

"Do you know them, friend trapper?"

"They're friends," responded Zed, in a rather evasive manner; "but, read that, Tom," he continued, taking the slip of paper from the dead man's hand and passing it to the youth.

"Vengeance is mine!" he read aloud.

"Is that all?"

"That's all; but it's a miserable scrawl."

"It's Molock's work. Poor boys! they're gone under forever. They're done toiler here, and their death will be a terrible blow to me. They've been away up to Virginia City for several days, and just got home yesterday. Curses on that Molock! I will hunt him and his Ingins as I would a deer."

Tom removed the hats from the heads of the two lifeless men, and gazed upon their ghastly faces. Instantly he recognized them as the two strangers he and Jack Hill had played with at the "Ophir Exchange"—the very same men who had won his diamond ring, and whom Hill had declared were detectives. But of these facts he said nothing to the trapper.

The old borderman was gravely afflicted with the death of his friends. Tears trickled down his sunburned cheeks from eyes that seemed to have been wrung dry by long years of isolation from light that would stir a feeling of tenderness in the human heart.

With the assistance of Tom, the dead were prepared for burial.

Under a stately pine in the valley, two graves were dug; and in the gathering twilight of a glorious summer evening the two men were put away to their final rest.

And all the while the Mad Trapper was sorrowful and silent. He spoke of the men in no way whatever, nor did Tom question him for he saw that the old man's lips were sealed concerning the two dead friends.

Darkness had fallen ere the two returned to the cabin. Wolves had begun their mournful howling away off in the mountains. The towering hills came out in bold relief against the blue, starry sky, and the somber pine rustled their drapery like the shrouds of the dead.

(To be continued—commenced in No. 284.)

Tiger Dick: THE CASHIER'S CRIME.

A TALE OF MAN'S HATE AND WOMAN'S FAITH.

BY PHILIP S. WARNE.

CHAPTER XI. THE DEAD ALIVE.

The balmy days went by with healing on their wings for May Powell; and though her heart was left crushed and sore, her body gradually yielded to the influences of nature and recovered from the shock that had prostrated her. One evening she passed, in wan and sad-eyed convalescence, down the garden path to Honeysuckle Bower. Looking out on the placid river, she thought of the evening when Cecil had come to her, and then, as she thought, had gone out to that cruel death at the hands of her brother.

She could scarcely realize it even now, that Cecil was dead—that he lay cold and still in his far-away grave, and that Fred, who had protected her kitten from the cruelty of his playfellows, and had wept with her when she broke her doll—she could scarcely realize that Fred had thrust him from the bluff into the terrible waters, and now fled a branded outcast.

As she thought and wept, a dark object appeared on the water, moving toward her. She soon made it out to be the head of a man swimming—a man with heavy black whiskers and a face of corpse-like pallor, lighted by sunken eyes of unnatural brilliancy. Her first instinct was to fly; but his voice detained her, though her heart palpitated with apprehension.

"Do not fear, lady," he said, in a reassuring tone. "You are Miss Powell, are you not?"

"Yes, sir," she replied, still trembling.

"I come to you with word of your brother. Can I see you where we will not be overheard?"

He spoke in a guarded tone, glancing about as he walked up out of the water.

There was something familiar in the voice that May could not explain. But he was from her brother; that explained his strange manner of coming.

"You can speak to me here, sir. We are alone. Where is Frederick? Is he well? And has he escaped so that they cannot follow him?"

The man stopped at a little distance from her, as if to reassure her, and said:

"Miss Powell, your brother is the victim of a terrible mistake."

"A mistake? What mistake?"

"You have heard of innocent men being convicted on circumstantial evidence?"

"Innocent?—Frederick innocent? What do you mean?"

"Men supposed to be dead have reappeared, alive and well."

"Oh, sir! pray explain yourself. At what are you hinting?"

"Prepare your mind for a great joy. I repeat, your brother is the victim of a fatal mistake."

"What do you say? Frederick innocent, and—and—?"

"Cecil Beaumont is not dead!"

May sat as still as death for a moment, and then she said, in a dying voice:

"You are mistaken. They buried him more than a week ago."

"That was the mistake. It was not Beaumont."

Again she sat still, this time panting with a wild excitement. She sat and looked at the speaker trying to receive his words into her mind and digest their meaning.

"How do you know?" she asked, presently.

"I have seen him within the hour."

"Take me to him! Where is he? Why did he not come with you?"

She arose and put her hand on the arm of the stranger, gazing into his face with fevered impatience.

"He has suffered. He is much changed. You would scarcely know him."

"Is he ill? What has happened? Oh, sir, take me to him immediately."

"He is as pale and thin and ghastly as I am," pursued the stranger, looking at her sadly.

Now she rose on tiptoes and peered into his face. A cadence in his voice had set her heart to throbbing wildly. The next instant he tore the false whiskers from his face, threw an arm about her, and put his hand over her mouth.

It was just in time to check the cry that arose to her lips, as she fainted in his arms.

"Poor thing! poor thing!" muttered Cecil Beaumont, as he laid her down on the grass.

"How I have wronged her! She loved me—she loves me still, as few women are capable of loving; and I, fiend that I am, trample her heart ruthlessly under foot!"

Then with the glitter of insanity glowing in his eyes, he went on:

"Ah! how sad it is to be in the hands of so cruel a fate! Everything that I ever loved—everything that ever loved me—has fallen under the curse!"

With a quivering sob May Powell came back to life again; and then, with a sound like the cooing of a dove, she nestled in his arms, clinging about his neck, unconscious that her clothes were being saturated by the water that still dripped from his garments, only weeping and laughing and kissing him, with little caressing hugs, and repeating over and over again, as if she would never tire of the sound:

"Cecil! Cecil! Cecil! Cecil!"

And Cecil Beaumont held her in his arms and wept over her like a child. His only thought was:

"How I have wronged her!—how I have wronged her! Ah! what a cruel, cruel destiny!"

It seemed as if she would have sat there forever, without a word of explanation, filled, satisfied with the knowledge that he lived—with his arms enfolding her—with his broad breast for her heart to beat against. But he broke the spell.

"May," he said, "I have come back to you, but not to the world."

She started back, and gazed at him, with open-eyed wonder.

"Not to the world?" she repeated. "What do you mean?"

"I cannot explain to you now, but the world must not know for a few days that I am not dead. I have a task to perform. If it were known that I lived—that I am in town—I should be frustrated—my life might yet be in jeopardy."

"Cecil, who is your enemy? Is it that terrible man—that—Tiger Dick? Has he been trying to kill you?"

"I know that he was a murderer, that day when I saw him smile."

"Yes, he is at the bottom of it all," assented Cecil, gladly, jumping at any solution that would satisfy her curiosity.

"Then why not apply to the police immediately, and have him arrested?"

"I cannot meet him in that way, May. See; here is the mark of his last bullet."

He opened his shirt and showed where a bullet, shot at him from one side, had ranged across his breast, leaving a blue line. She uttered a tremulous cry.

"Oh, Cecil! what can we do for it?"

"Nothing," he replied. "It is not injurious; but it was a narrow escape. May, cannot you hide me for two or three days? I do not know where else to go for security."

"Cecil, where?" she asked.

"I do not know. There must be room in that big house."

He looked wistfully at the house as he spoke. May thought a moment, and then the color came into her cheeks.

"Your life depends upon it; every consideration must give way before that," she said, more in apology to herself than to him.

"Yes, my life may depend upon it," he replied, detecting the struggle in her breast between conventional propriety and conscious purity of purpose.

"I know of but one place where you will be secure from prying eyes," she said, looking straight into his face; "but though my conduct will provoke curiosity the while, it will receive no explanation until you are out of danger. Stay here, until I see if the way is clear to get you into the house."

Then she was gone; and Cecil Beaumont, his nature purged of some of its baseness in the fiery crucible through which he had passed, standing in the shadows that seemed sanctified by her recent presence, bared his head with a reverence for womanhood that his rational moments had never known.

"May," he said, in whispered apostrophe, "in your devotion I see the treasure I have carelessly thrown aside; in your love I recognize a pearl cast before swine! Your love for me blinded you to a fact as patent as day; and now, for love of me, you lay at my feet a woman's dearest treasure—for my sake, freely, unhesitatingly, you incur the risk of compromising yourself in the eyes of the herd who, seeing only through the discolored medium of their own vile natures, discern in the gold only dross. And I—I accept it! As if that was not enough, I betray you while accepting it, and make your very nobility of soul subserve the gratification of the basest of passions—revenge!"

"Ah! what a requital! What a devil I am! But I must go on—it is decreed! Oh! the cruel destiny! These hands, how they reek with the blood of my childhood's playfellows—how they drip and drip with the

blood of her whom I had enshrined in my heart of hearts! They will never be clean again, till bathed in the blood of the fiend whose baleful wings, through all these years, have hovered between me and the sunlight of heaven!"

A frenzy was upon him; and he paced the lower like a caged lion, with blazing eyes, white, quivering nostrils, and fever-parched lips.

A step sounded on the walk, and instantly he was calm.

"Come!" said May, and gave him her hand.

Cautiously they approached the house. She led him in at a side door, up a dark staircase, through a corridor, to a room which, from its appointments, he recognized as her boudoir. From this she opened a door that ushered him into her bedchamber.

"Here, Cecil, you will be safe," she said. "Do not go near enough to the window to be seen from the lawn, and I will keep watch in the outer room so that no one can get to you. I will have my meals served in the boudoir, and share them with you. There are some of Fred's—poor Fred's—garments, so that you can change your wet clothes immediately."

He stood, as if overpowered, with bowed head and swimming eyes. Then he bent over her hand, and while tears fell upon it with his kisses, he said:

"God bless you, May, and help me! How little deserving of this I am!"

"Hush, Cecil!" she whispered; "I would yield my life for you, if need were!"

A moment she laid her cheek to his, touching her lips with her heart in them; to his neck; and then she pushed him gently into the room and closed the door.

Long she walked the floor of her boudoir in fevered excitement.

"He is alive! he is alive!" she whispered to herself, her face almost luminous with its radiance of love and joy and gratitude. Then the thought that he was the wreck of his former self wrung her heart with a twinge of anguish; but she banished it as ungrateful, after the great mercy of Heaven in sparing his life; and with hands reverently folded on her bosom, she raised her streaming eyes and whispered: "Oh, God! I thank thee! He is alive!"

But her enfeebled frame succumbed at last; and she lay white and still on the sofa, and with her hands before her eyes to shut out everything else from her consciousness, thought of him with her whole soul.

The clock was on the stroke of twelve, when Mr. Powell raised his head from the table, where it had been resting on his arms in painful meditation. Wearily he arose; and as he stood, a man prematurely old through grief, one could see, how fearfully the events of the past few weeks had told upon him.

A drunkard, a gambler, a forger, a robber, a murderer—and now, to crown the catalogue of infamy, he had beguiled from her home the woman he professed to love, and sunk her too in the quagmire of his shame! That was the thought that wrung the father's heart, and turned his black hairs gray.

But back, as if in mockery of his grief, came a long, wild laugh of derision. It rises weird and spectral, and dies away in a blood-curdling rattle. He starts and listens. What is it? Again it rises. And now he rushes to the door, and up the stairs, and without knocking, bursts into May's boudoir.

She is standing in the middle of the room, as white as any ghost. She raises her hand in a gesture that holds him on the threshold. Again that hideous laugh rings through the house, coming unmistakably from her bedchamber, and covering her face with her hands, she stands shuddering from head to foot.

"What in Heaven's name is it, May?" asks her frightened father, taking her by the arm and shaking her, to rouse her out of the stupor that has fallen upon her.

She looks up at him, with such a look of woe as he has never before beheld.

"Father," she says, "it is Cecil!"

"Cecil?"

He gazes at her as if he thought she had taken leave of her senses.

"He is alive, father, and has come back."

Leaving her, he strides to the bedroom door and throws it open. Cecil Beaumont is sitting upright in bed, just preparing to give utterance to another of those insane laughs. At the sight of Mr. Powell a look of terror comes into his face, and he reaches one hand under his pillow. But May darts in past her father.

"Cecil, Cecil! it is papa!"

Instantly he is calm.

"Ah! Mr. Powell! Pardon me, sir; pardon me, I did not recognize you at first. But this is a sad affliction that has fallen upon you, sir. Let me offer you my heartfelt condolence."

"Excuse us a moment, Cecil," says May, with a woman's ready wit; and pushing her father back, she closes the door again.

Then her strength fails, and she sinks to the floor, writhing in anguish of spirit, and moans and sobs as if her heart would break.

"Oh, he will die! he will die! He has come back to us only to die after all!"

With his brain in a whirl, the father lifts her in his arms and carries her to the sofa. She clings about his neck and hides her face in his breast, with an abandon of grief that frightens him into silence and inactivity, while his mind labors to grasp the staggering fact that his eyes have beheld Cecil Beaumont in the flesh. He masters it, at last, and then, like the rolling of a weight from his heart, comes the consciousness:

"FREDERICK IS NOT A MURDERER!"

With feverish eagerness he begins to question his daughter as to how Cecil Beaumont came into his present position. His earnestness forces her out of her grief, and she answers him, at first wildly, then more coherently.

"We must bring relief to him immediately, May," he says, rising.

"But, papa, how can you, without betraying him! He said that his life might depend upon it."

"That was only an insane fancy. At any rate, no danger can reach him here; and he will die, if neglected."

So it was announced to the world that Cecil Beaumont yet lived.

CHAPTER XII.
AN AWFUL PERIL.

TIGER DICK and Shadow Jim walked briskly for two or three blocks, and then entered a pawnbroker-shop. When they reappeared, it was on the next parallel street, and their own pals would not have known them, so completely were they disguised.

They proceeded directly to the stables where Pat Donovan's hack was kept. While they were waiting for a couple of saddle-horses, they passed among the animals as they stood in the stalls, commenting upon them with a

manifest knowledge of horse-flesh that engaged the attention of the hostlers, while Shadow Jim surreptitiously took the throat-latch from a halter in an empty stall.

The Tiger, who appeared in the character of an English sporting gentleman, took a sudden fancy to a lithe-limbed hound that had been kept about the stable, and before he left the premises had paid the money that made him the happy possessor of the animal.

At Grigg's Hollow the object of this sudden fancy and purchase transpired. The throat-latch was held to the nose of the intelligent animal, and then he was set upon the track of Pat Donovan's hack. We have seen that they came up with the object of their pursuit just after the consummation of the mockery of a marriage.

When Cecil Beaumont leaped through the window, Tiger Dick let the insensible form of Florence Goldthorp down on the floor, and sprung to the door of the hut.

"Stop him, Jim! Shoot him down! The devil has killed her!" he cried.

But Shadow Jim lay insensible at the corner of the house, while Cecil Beaumont was already in the act of mounting. As he swung into the saddle, Tiger Dick's pistol was discharged, the bullet grazing his breast. With a wild laugh the maniac dug his heels into the flanks of his horse and sped away into the darkness.

Leaving Shadow Jim to take care of himself, the Tiger sprang back into the house with an oath of disappointment and rage. A glance of his experienced eye—practiced in the wild life of the Rocky Mountains—told him that the wound received by Florence was of a very trivial character. Her fainting and the blood trickling over his sleeve had at first deceived him. She had been with her back directly toward Cecil when he fired, and the bullet, striking the steel of her corset frame, had grazed her side, merely abrading the skin along one of the ribs.

She was soon restored to consciousness, and grasped the Tiger's hand in gratitude.

"Oh, sir," she said, "from how horrible a fate you have preserved me!"

"Madam, say no more," said the Tiger, with easy suavity; for he could play the gentleman, when it served his turn. "I am only too happy to have been in time to render you assistance."

"Your coming was most opportune, sir," she said, shuddering at the recollection of her recent peril. "He is a wicked man, who abducted me and was forcing me into a marriage with him, through the instrumentality of this villain here, whom he called a minister."

She turned, but the late officiating clergyman had stepped from the room.

"Hold on here, sport! We'll have further use for you," said the Tiger, leveling his pistol at the cabman, who was on the point of imitating the example of the divine.

The appeal, so forcibly urged, was heeded; and offering Florence his arm, the Tiger placed her in the carriage with the grace of an accomplished gentleman, and followed her.

Shadow Jim, who by this time had regained his scattered wits, mounted his horse; and with a quiet intimation to the cabman that it would be quite a pleasant diversion to blow the top of his head off, if he didn't "give 'em a square deal," instructed him to crack up his horses.

A little way up the road they came upon the hound, which, upon seeing the light in the but, they had tied to a tree, lest he should betray their approach to the occupants.

Some distance further on they turned into a cross-road, and, after a drive of four or five miles, came to a country tavern, where the Tiger procured for Florence that refreshment of which she stood so sadly in need, through excitement and loss of sleep.

"As I presume you do not wish to be the subject of gossip, I will remain silent about the peculiar circumstances in which I met you, and, to save appearances, represent you as my sister, if agreeable to you."

"Thank you, sir. You are very considerate," replied Florence; and by this little piece of adroit maneuvering the Tiger had silenced her. As for the cabman, Dick threatened to blow his brains out at the first symptom of indiscretion, and taking him in the room with himself and Shadow Jim, made him submit to be securely bound, while they slept.

At ten o'clock the next morning they set out again, but went so slowly and made so long a stop in the middle of the afternoon, that it was well along in the night when they passed within a mile of the cave.

The cabman, plied with drugged liquor, had lain in a drunken stupor since sunset; so there was no one the wiser, when the hack was driven off the road among the trees and secured. No one but Shadow Jim saw Tiger Dick lift an insensible form from the carriage, and place it on the back of the horse that had been led since Jim had taken the place of the stupefied driver. Then supporting it in his arms, though the greater portion of the weight was borne by the animal, Tiger Dick walked beside the horse, while Shadow Jim led him, and in this way they reached the vicinity of the cave. But before they drew too near, the Tiger lifted the limp form from the back of the horse, and carried it the rest of the way on foot.

Then Jim went back alone and drove the hack four or five miles back again, over the track that they had come. Here he dragged the driver from his position, and pitched him into a brook that ran beside the road, but drew him out again in time to prevent suffocation. Two or three repetitions of this process completely restored the fellow to consciousness. Then Jim advised him to get up into his seat and "light out!" and, if you don't want to get plugged, you'd better not look round till you get to town! And, hark! my chicken, if you ever go to yarning it about what you've seen in the last forty-eight hours, you'll go to kingdom-come a-sizzlin', you kin bet your bottom dollar! Tell 'em that you don't know anything about the other boss, but that a red-eyed stoker from the bottomless pit, a braathin' fire an' brimstone, requested you to take charge o' this plug! Now, git!"

Not a little impressed by the somewhat peculiar speech of Shadow Jim, the cabman showed no reluctance to act upon the gentle hint conveyed in his words, and drove off with the horse tied to the back of the vehicle.

When Florence Goldthorp first met Tiger Dick, on the day of the runaway, she had invested him with that halo of chivalry which romance has thrown about the character of Dick Turpin, and of other noted outlaws since his time. The correctness of her estimate of his character was now to be tested.

When she recovered from the effects of the drug which he had administered, she found herself lying on a shakedown of grass covered with a blanket. The chamber was evidently a cave lighted by a torch of resinous wood stuck in the rocky wall. Tiger Dick sat on a stone, beside a larger one, whose flat surface served as a table. Before him were food and wine,

evidently taken from the hamper which had been in the carriage.

"Ah! my dear, awake!" he said, seeing her move.

Florence sprang to her feet, and looked around and at him. There was a maddening smile on his face. His disguise had been removed, and she recognized him.

"What is the meaning of this, sir? Where are we? And why have you not taken me home?" she asked, with the dignity of a queen, yet with blanched cheeks and heart in her mouth.

"One question at (hic) a time, my dear," replied the Tiger, smiling beamingly upon her. "In the first place, it means 'at we've put (hic) up fr th' night in a hotel where th' (hic) 'commodations 're ver' lim'ted—ver' lim'ted! S'ceon'ly (hic) we're here—yes'm, we're (hic) 'ere! W'y didn't I take ye home' (hic). My dear, thereby hangs a tale—a (hic) long tale—a ver' long (hic) tale!"

He closed one eye and smiled at her with a horrible grimace, as his body swayed steadily toward her.

"To begin with," he pursued, "that glor' (hic) beauty, th' made such havoc with a man' (hic) 'arts, has foun' 'nother victim in this, your faith—(hic)—I slave! This vul'n'ble bos'm was not proof' (hic) 'gains't th' arrows 'at dart' (hic) fr'm y'r stary eyes!—th'at's it; I'm y'r star' (hic) eyes! Miss Goldthorp, I love you!—love you, d' I s—(hic)—say—I 'dore you! I worsh'p th' groun' I kneath y'r f—(hic)—feet! Oh! my love! (hic) once fly—fly to th' p'tect'n' (hic) these arms! Le' m' clasp you t' (hic) this throbbin' heart!"

He got upon his feet and reeled toward her with extended arms, his villainous face distorted by a smile that sent the blood in an icy current to her heart. If she had felt terror when in the power of Cecil Beaumont, she now experienced a shuddering, sickening agony of disgust, such as would be inspired by contact with a loathsome serpent.

With a cry she evaded him, and darted into one of the dark galleries that led from the cave. Blindly she groped on, not knowing whether, only seeking to escape the drunken demon who

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ADAMS AND ADAMS, PUBLISHERS.
98 WILLIAM ST., NEW YORK.

In Mrs. May Agnes Fleming's SUPERB ROMANCE,

Soon to appear in these Columns, readers of fiction have a masterpiece of art, plot and action, and such a series of characters as few living writers could manage. It is, indeed, one of the eminent writer's finest conceptions and most powerful productions, and will be read with an interest and satisfaction that no words of ours can express.

Sunshine Papers. Ripples.

We stood by the edge of a pleasant pond. The waters were glassy clear, revealing the funny inhabitants that sported in their depths. On the far side we could see the little birds fluttering back and forth among the reeds, and the trees dropping tender foliage to its brink.

"John Henry, throw this small stone into the center of the pond."

Whiz! Plash! The stone sunk out of sight and the waters grew still and smooth again, save a tiny ripple circling the spot where it fell. See how the ripple floats outward, further and further, until it breaks against the banks at either side, and washes up on the carriage drive where we stand.

Again—we lingered on the shore of a large bay. The waves rolled in over the yellow sands with languid, regular sweeps, up, almost, to our very feet. We picked up many pebbles, throwing them at long intervals into the bay. As on the glassy pond, so here on the throbbing deep, the ripples circled far and wide, breaking on the sands on one side, stretching far beyond our vision on the other. Silently we turned away.

A few days later we were in the glow of noontide, where the broad Atlantic rolled its blue waves against the rock on which we sat. Far away passed a white steamer. We took our watches and waited. Slowly, very slowly it seemed, the minutes crept into the past. Fifty-five were gone, then, plash! plash! plash! among the rocks, broke ripples that had come o'er many miles, the effect of what had passed beyond the range of our vision three quarters of an hour before. Perhaps, there were tears in our eyes; surely, there was a heavy pain at our hearts as we looked into each others' faces.

The glassy pond, the throbbing bay, the rolling ocean—were the world; the child's world—the youth's world—the man's world, the woman's world. The stone, the pebble, the steamer—our deeds and our words sending ripples over the soul-life of the whole world; ripples only ceasing when they reach the shore where time beats itself to death on the unchanging boundaries of eternity.

The world is moved by ripples. John Howard, an Englishman of little note, became a captive in a French prison. His kind heart was sore grieved by the sufferings of the wretched prisoners. He resolved, when released, to attempt to alleviate their condition. His efforts were crowned with success, and a reformation effected in prison treatment. Ripple, ripple, ripple, spread from that small act, until John Howard's presence was hailed with joy from the jails of his native England, to the perpetual winters of Siberian forests, and the fever-lazarettos of southern Europe; and his name is revered in every land. The ripples that his deeds started circle yet, and shall circle through all time; making a filthy, unhealthy, inhumanly conducted prison a reproach that arouses a chorus of shame from the inhabitants of every civilized land.

A little peasant girl dreamed among her flock, and went forth to head an army. The ripples that floated forth, as she resolved to aid her country, surged under the impotent Charles and swept him back to his throne. Those ripples changed the course of French history and have come circling down through the years, whispering ever the name of Joan of Arc.

Watching the ripples on the ocean brings to one's heart with awful solemnity, the realization that our lightest words, our most trifling acts, send world-wide ripples over the great ocean of humanity. Yet how rarely we pause to consider that a careless word will echo time after time against other ears than those that listen now—helping to make or mar the life of mortals till time is o'er.

It is a trifling matter for you, oh! belles, drawing your dainty robes about you, to speak a pleasant word, or place a penny in the hand of the beggar-girl who sweeps the crossing; yet the smile, the kind word, may help to waken a glorious life in that little one, a life that shall some day exercise a power over all the world.

It is a trifling matter for you, oh! beaux, to smile and say of a woman, "She is a little fast," and yet the ripples of that light speech may surge across her pathway, bearing her toward bitterest weal and death.

There is no word, however so unintended, But weal or woe may bear;
There is no act, however sincere repeated,
But ripples everywhere.

A PARSON'S DAUGHTER.

FRIENDS, LOVE AND JOKES.

Our Lettie wants to know why people are so fickle in their friendships, and why so many beings throw aside an old, tried and familiar face to run after a new one. It is a hard problem to solve, and one that I have been endeavoring to find an answer to ever since I came to give any thoughts to the subject. Maybe it is because we are too fond of novelty. We like new clothes, new gloves and new fashions, but, when they have ceased to be novelties, we become weary of them and seek a change in something newer and fresher. Isn't it in the same manner with friends?

One great error we fall into is in forming sudden friendships. We become acquainted with people for whom we form a great attachment. We can see no faults in them, and we consider it an almost unpardonable offense for any one else to find any. This sort of thing goes on until a new actor comes upon the scene, one who may have a handsomer face, wear better clothes, or be blessed with a trifle more worldly wealth, and then the friendship we formed for another is thrown to the winds. It is a sad way to do, but it seems to be the way of the world. Lettie, my friend, poverty often turns friends in the wrong direction, and when we most need the value of a friend's comfort, we find that the friend and the comfort have left by the back door. Fickleness is a characteristic with many and many a one. How few of those wonderfully strong friendships girls form for each other—especially schoolgirls—last through life! Absence has much to do with this severing of friendship, for, you know, when we are away, we are not long missed and not very long remembered. If you had asked me why lovers are so changeable, I should have been tempted to answer that it is because love is a weather-vane. The old rhyme runs:

"Love's a feather, April weather,
Sometimes sun and sometimes shower,
Fickle, changing, fond of ranging,
Like a bee from flower to flower."

It has been so since the world began, and doubtless it will continue to be so until the end of time.

Laura is in a quandary. She is loved and loves in return. Her beloved is poor, deeply in debt, and not over strong. He has told Laura that he fears he will come upon the town. Laura says she had sooner live on the town—i. e., be a resident of the poor-house—with him for a husband than be the richest lady in the land without his love, and she actually wants Eve's advice. I'm afraid Laura is one of those who ask advice and then do just as they please about acting upon it. I think "a wife should share the fortunes of her husband," but it seems to me that I should rather wait until my lover's debts were paid and he got a little more "forehanded" in the world.

A home-moon passed in the poor-house doesn't seem exactly the thing. It wouldn't suit me. Laura may think herself very heroic, but her ambition should soar higher than love in an almshouse. When the first of this love wears away, will not Laura sigh for handsome clothes, will she not feel somewhat above being dependent on others for support, and will she not be apt to complain because matters are not as they ought to be? Will she not upbraid her husband and tell him how much better she might have married? Will he not answer back that she knew what she had to expect when they were wedded? Will there not be seeking and fault-finding on both sides of the house? Will they not commiserate the day that ever brought them together? It is a gloomy prospect I own, and a sad prophecy to make, but as it has proved true in other cases, will it not be likely to do so again? If people will walk foolishly into the fire they must expect to get scorched.

Miriam asks why people become so flippant in speaking of sacred subjects? It must be owing to the small bump of veneration on their heads. It doesn't seem to me that one who will crack jokes in the pulpit has much respect for his profession or the Master he professes to love. There's a place for all things, but I don't believe that the pulpit is the place for telling funny stories. I consider those who do so are not in their proper sphere. Many persons talk lightly of death and of the dead, in such a manner sometimes as to shock those who possess sensitive minds. Are there no other subjects for merriment? Cannot anything else serve as a theme for a jest? Are there people among us so perverted as to mock at our griefs? If they are in the ascendency, then I want to emigrate. I want to leave this mundane sphere and sail for other lands where sensitive feelings are not made sport of, and where one's dead will be left to lie calmly in its grave, and not be the subject for unseemly mirth.

EVE LAWLESS.

OUR FUTURE RICH MEN.

WHAT becomes of the sons of our great men? is a question that is frequently asked and as frequently left unanswered. The intellectual powers of the father, if predominant, seldom descend to the son. In a certain sense this rule holds true with respect to the ability to acquire and retain riches. If the father possesses this in a remarkable degree, the son, in some cases, is of ten, is a spendthrift. Examples of this are not wanting. The descendants of men who two or three generations ago rolled in opulence, hold clerkships or other subordinate positions. Wealth, influence, and ability in some families descend from father to son, but these are isolated cases, and, as exceptions, only prove the truth of the rule. Since they are so seldom retained in one family for any great length of time, the question, where our rich men of the future will come from, naturally suggests itself. They do come to the surface, and, gradually degenerating, these powers which enable them to manage vast enterprises, control millions, and wield a mighty influence. The result is not a freak of fortune; they are not kicked into good luck; their success is merely the result of long and laborious years, a right appreciation of the details. Wealthy young men begin life just where their fathers left off, and, of course, end where their fathers began, i. e., at the little end of the horn. Our future rich men are to-day peddling fish in the streets, selling oranges or papers on the sidewalk, or are engaged in some remunerative employment, the wages of which are each week divided between current expenses and the savings bank, the latter generally getting the lion's share.

The Boston Traveler illustrates this by several cases coming under its own observation. "We have in view," it says, "a candy man who owns a little stand on a street corner and a marble block at the South End; or a little bootblack on State street who has six hundred dollars in one of the city savings banks. Business men appreciated the tact displayed by this boy, and he has a long list of regular customers, bringing him a weekly income of ten to twenty dollars. Another case is that of a little match merchant who frequently visits State street and vicinity, and salutes you with, 'Buy some parlor matches, cap'n!' He is a bright, active, intelligent little fellow, with a cheery voice, betraying the metropolitan accent, and large, black eyes, that always flash when he sees a chance to make a dime. His history is as interesting as it is brief. He formerly lived in New York, where he was thrown upon his own resources, and formed the laudable determination to support himself, and not, like others, to become a drone. Borrowing twenty-five dollars from a friend, he invested the entire amount in matches, and disposing of his stock at a fair profit, was enabled to pay the debt and begin business on the profits. Appreciating money at its proper

value, and knowing from intuition what it has taken others years to learn, he began right, banked every dollar he could spare, and now, though he has been in business only a very short time, has three hundred dollars in bank, a stock of matches worth seventy-five dollars, pays four dollars per week for board, current expenses, and constantly adds to his funds in the bank. His enterprise, keen business tact and foresight, when his age is considered, are simply wonderful."

These are the coming rich men! It is such boys who answer our question, "Where will they come from?"

PLAIN TALK TO GIRLS.

Your everyday toilet is a part of your character. A girl who looks like a "fury" or a sloven in the morning is not to be trusted, however finely she may look in the evening. No matter how humble your room may be, there are eight things it should contain, viz.: a mirror, wash-stand, soap, towel, comb, hair, nail and tooth-brushes. Those are just as essential as your breakfast, before which you should make good and free use of them. Parents who fail to provide their children with such appliances, not only make a great mistake, but commit a sin of omission.

Look tidy in the morning, and after the dinner work is over, improve your toilet. Make it a rule of your daily life to "dress up" for the afternoon. Your dress may, or need not be, anything better than calico; but with a ribbon, or some bit of ornament, you have an air of self-respect and satisfaction, that invariably comes with being well-dressed. A girl with fine sensibilities cannot help feeling embarrassed and awkward in a ragged, dirty dress, with her hair unkempt, if a stranger or neighbor comes in.

Moreover, your self-respect should demand the decent appareling of your body. You should make it a point to look as well as you can, even if you know nobody will see you but yourself.

Foolscap Papers.

Revolutionary Relics for the Coming Centennial.

I HAVE a very large collection of relics of the Revolution, and it is my design to place them on exhibition at the Centennial Exposition. A sight of them is worth three times the price of admission, therefore the price of admission will accordingly be trebled. They will not be again on public exhibition until the next Centennial, 1876, and if you miss this opportunity you will have to wait with great impatience for another long hundred years, or thereabouts, and some of you will get tired before that time comes.

Among the many relics comprised in the list, allow me to give the following:

The first shot of the Revolution, whose echo was heard around the world. This shot was picked out of my grandfather's back at the battle of Lexington. He turned round and shook his fist at the British and defied them ever to catch him—that patriot was never taken.

The armor that General Whitehorn—my venerated ancestor—wore at the battle of Long Island, which is a tree; very historical. The original flag which was entirely destroyed by fire at the burning of New London. This, without any doubt, is one of the most remarkable curiosities left us of the times that tried the Whitehorn soles.

A small piece of the week before the capture of Major Andre.

The bellows which gave the first blow for freedom.

The authorized report of the first gun that was fired at Lexington; also the report of the first building which was fired in Concord.

A few pieces of the first flashes of war, embalmed.

A handful of feathers from the first American eagle, 1776.

Several passes from the speech of John Adams.

A section and a half of Paul Revere's Ride. The first ring of Independence Bell in Philadelphia.

Some of the rumble that shook the earth when the magazine in Fort Moultrie blew up. Some of the breeze that whistled the American flag was first unfurled, stuffed.

The last word of Warren when he fell at Bunker Hill, a Warren with the British.

A coat that Washington didn't wear at the crossing of the Delaware in one of the greatest exploits of the Revolution; very interesting.

A handful of powder that was shot out of the first cannon that was fired at the battle of Stony Point—a remarkable relic.

A post-hole from the fence behind which the Americans fought at Concord.

One of the waves which swept over an English boat in Boston Harbor during the siege.

A very large piece of the smoke that hung over the field of battle at Saratoga, dried.

A cane made out of the cherry tree which Washington cut down with his little hatchet, originally presented to the undersigned by the lovers of truth in America. Also a nick out of the aforesaid little hatchet.

A piece of the first long roll at the battle of Bunker Hill.

A shoe from the saw-horse which Washington rode when a small boy.

The original hole which was shot into a regimental flag at the battle of Bennington.

An order from General W. detailing Sergeant Whitehorn to guard the commissary department; another, dated the next day, rescinding the order, not on account of the incapacity of my distinguished relative, but because of too much capacity—he ate too much.

A drum upon which a relative of mine used to beat a retreat—he could beat any retreat by several miles.

A few yards of the original line of battle at Bunker Hill.

A few old circular whoops of the patriots who destroyed the tea in Boston Harbor; also a few drawings of the same tea; pretty far drawn.

One step from Faneuil Hall; also a few steps from the retreat of the Americans from Brandywine.

The first cannon that ever was discharged from the American service.

A cannon-ball, fired at the siege of Boston, which would have killed Washington if he had not happened to have been on another part of the field just at that critical moment. This is a very valuable and historical relic, and shows that Providence was on the side of our country from the start.

Some of the earliest notes of the Revolution—signed generally by the Whitehorns, and just as good now as when they were first given.

WASHINGTON WHITEHORN.

The greatest benefit which one friend can confer on another, is to guard and excite and elevate his virtues.

Topics of the Time.

—In Paris there is a very wealthy misanthrope who never smokes anything but the vilest cigars—those which are sold for a sou. The other day a friend asked the cause of this eccentricity. "It gratifies me in this way," I arrive at the theater in an open carriage. The prancing horses are pulled up, and I alight with dignity, at the same time throwing away my half-smoked cigar. "Well, what then?" "I think how badly sold the fellow is who picks up the stump, thinking he has hold of a fragrant Havana!"

All last winter," says Mark Twain, "I sat at home drunk with joy over every storm that howled across, because I knew that so no dog of a lecturer was out in it." Whitehorn rejoices over the late heavy rain-storms and consequent mud because it gives him a good excuse for wearing his "stove" boots to church. Having no others he couldn't very well be a consistent Christian and go to church in prison-made boots in pleasant weather. So he hopes it will keep on raining until some one, anxious for the rain to "let up," gives him a pair of patent-leathers.

—There is in Dallas, Texas, a chain fourteen and a half feet long and consisting of one hundred and fifty different silver coins, no two of which are alike. The coin of almost every country on the globe is represented in the chain, which is linked together with small silver wires. It was found in the Indian Territory, recently, and no one time was, doubtless, the talisman of some mighty monarch among the red men. As Texas has recently resumed specie payments we suppose the step was taken on the strength of this "find."

—That the Chinese were once inhabitants of this country no one seems to be probable. There are remains in the Pacific States which unquestionably are Chinese, and associated with a very remote date. They seem to have succeeded the "Mound Builders"—after that race, for some incommensurable reason, had been utterly annihilated. Discoveries recently made in the great salt cave, in Kentucky, bring to light some curious relics of sandals, woven bark cloth of fine texture, (one piece of which is finely darned, where it had been worn,) bundles of wood, queer little fireplaces, etc.—all pointing to an Asiatic civilization and modes of life.

—The immense size of some of the photographic productions executed at the present day is well calculated to excite astonishment. Recently, pictures of this kind have been made of the new opera house, Paris, four feet three inches in length, and three feet four inches in height—these being obtained in one single piece by well-known processes, and with the aid of a large camera constructed in a special manner for this purpose. All the lines of these remarkable pictures are represented as of peculiar artistic excellence—the emblings, busts, medallions, and even the minutest details, being reproduced with rare perfection. The attempt is being made to secure pictures even larger than these.

—A boy in the suburbs tried to ascertain the other day the soundness of the proverb: "Birds of a feather flock together." He plucked three geese, and fastened a single tail feather, and it didn't flock at all, but went and hid under the barn. Thus is one old saw smashed, while another is brought into discredit in this wise: A little chap of our acquaintance asked his papa what he thought by saying "Great cry and little wool." Papa explained: "When the pigs get under the fence he makes a great cry; when you come to shear him you get very little wool." The next day at school, being asked where wool came from, the boy answered: "A little comes from pig-back, for papa said so. 'Great cry and little wool,' Miss!'"

—In Paris, the other day, a well-dressed man was observed walking alone, but with his left arm extended and curved as though he had given it to a lady. He looked around with an irritated air, and when he saw a young man in a top hat, he said: "Look out, you blockhead, or you will hurt my wife." "How, your wife?" said the other, astonished. "Yes, my wife," was the reply, accompanied by a blow. On being arrested and taken to the station, the comedian's assistant explained that he was a spiritualist, and that his wife, who died ten years ago, was now in the habit of taking a walk with him every day. The passer-by had collided with the spirit! Moral: when you meet a spiritualist with a crooked arm give him the walk!

—Talking about spiritualists, we see that they are now moving to establish a seminary for a new system of education at Belvidere, N. J. Dr. S. B. Brittan is the president of this association, and Miss Bell Bush is secretary. "Friendship, love and truth" is their motto. They propose to raise a general endowment fund of \$5,000 in two thousand shares of \$25 each, and they have an honorary board of some two hundred advisers, including the Hon. Henry G. Stebbins, Walt Whitman, the Rev. O. B. Frothingham, Ole Bull, Miss Susan B. Anthony, Mr. Epes Sargent, the Hon. Alfred Burr, the Rev. Olympia Brown, Anna Dickinson, William and Mary Howitt, Baron de Poiet, president of the Society Magnétique, Paris; Lieut.-Genl. Bassolles, ex-Minister for War; Mader; Alexander W. Scott, Rear-Commodore, Halifax; and Daniel Douglas Home, cosmopolitan. The seminary is to be conducted "with a view to the comprehensive nature and equal education of both sexes," and investment in the liberal, spiritual and reform societies are hoped for. Why is Woodhull's name omitted? She should have the best "sit" in that institution.

—It may not be generally known but it is a fact that underclothing for men and women is of comparative recent adoption. In Shakespeare's time the men wore a linen shirt, even with the nobility, was a matter of public attention; very few wads, besides contained such a superfluous article! Our ancestors didn't like to wear anything that required washing, for, if the truth must be told, they were a scandalously dirty set. Anne Bolayne's night-dress was made of black satin, bound with black taffets, and edged with velvet of the same color. One of Queen Elizabeth's night-gowns was of black velvet, trimmed with silk lace and lined with fur, and in 1558 her majesty ordered George Brandyman to deliver "three-score and six shillings, to furnish as a night-gown." In another warrant from her majesty in 1572 she orders the delivery of "twelve yards of purple velvet, fringed on the back side with white or russet silk," for a night-gown for herself, and also orders the delivery of fourteen yards of murrey damask for the "making of a night-gown for the Earl of Leicester." Gracious maiden queen!

—Victoria Woodhull is by no means a lost Pleiad. She yet runs her *Weekly*, and has her world of admirers—that class of crazy loons who can teach St. Peter morality, St. Paul law and Christ common-sense. Victoria is a seeress. She communes with the Invisible; she consorts with people out of the body and has for her familiars Demosthenes, Napoleon and Josephine. In a recent number of her paper she tells of a "trance vision" she had when she was only four years of age, in which she really and truly was "out of her body" and was then told by Demosthenes and Company what her life-work was to be, and was assured that her body "shall never be corrupted." After relating the particulars of this vision she adverts to her life-work as it has been and is yet to be, and says: "I have never desired to even seem to wish to make it appear that I was what I really am—an instrument in the hands of these spirits, to work out a great spiritual problem; but I know that I am and have been so for many years. The spirits whom I have named are only members of a spirit congress, whose head and center is a name more revered and widely known in the Christian world than any other, while Confucius, Krishna, Buddha, Zoroaster and other Christs of other countries, and of other dispensations and civilizations, or at least spirits who represent them, are comprised in the congress." What a congress, to be sure, and when it really gets at work won't there be thunder all around? Woodhull to the front!

Readers and Contributors.

To CORRESPONDENTS AND AUTHORS.—No MSS. received that are not fully repaid in postage.—No MSS. preserved for future orders.—Unavailable MSS. promptly returned only where stamps accompany the inclosure, for such return.—No correspondence of any nature is permissible in a package marked as "Book MS."—MSS. which are imperfect are not used or wanted. In all cases our editors read first one month or three; second, upon receipt of the MSS. "the way," third, length. Of two MSS. of equal merit we always prefer the shorter.—Never write on both sides of a sheet. Use Commercial Note-size paper as most convenient to editor and compositor, tearing off each page as it is written, and carefully giving it its full or page number.—A rejection by no means implies the want of merit. Many MSS. unavailable to us are well worthy of use.—All experienced and popular writers will find us ever ready to give their efforts early attention.—Correspondents must look to this column for all information in regard to contributions. We can not write letters except in special cases.

Declined: "Guard of Death;" "Waiting at the Gate;" "Fight with a Panther;" "The Summer Camp;" "A Season on the Racquette;" "How to Make a Sensation;" "In a Noose."

We use: "An Outward Sail;" "The Mission of the Blue Eyes;" "Sporting for Sports;" "Lady or Otherwise;" "Looked in Lock;" "The Good in the Bad;" "Port;" "Speeding the Harvest."

DETECTIVE. Gambling is against the law, but the police don't enforce the law.

JOSIAH PLUMB. Send no money to parties not known to be responsible.

KITTY LANE. Stewart employs a great many women clerks in his retail store.

W. J. P. "Death Notch" is not published in book form—only as a serial in this paper.

CHAS. W. Have written by mail "We examine all MSS. but offer no promises in advance."

JOHN D. Phila. Answered you last week. There is no room for such a "book" in this market.

YOUNG DRUGGIST. The cholera milder you name is not known to our city druggists.

MARY W. Have received no package of the kind you indicate. We report on MSS. without delay.

JOS. E. E. Have written as requested. No hope of success until you write with perfect correctness. Editors don't revise contributions.

C. W. D. "Moor Captives" commenced in No. 230 and ended in No. 247. We know of no story of the title you give. "Man From Texas" commenced in No. 241.

JAS. B. H. S. Poem promises better than it performs. It is rather constrained or forced in its expression, but good in sentiment and action.

"Came a vision stealing o'er me," "Fell I then into a slumber."

"Form the French a hollow square"—are grammatical enough, but not artistic.

NEBBY. The lady should have the same right to make advances that you claim, although custom rather assigns the first right to you. Everything of course depends on the spirit in which it is done. It probably is a real expression of regard. So treat it.—The scroll cards are "fussy"—too ornamental. A plain card is in better taste.

GES. AMAND. Horses die before twenty years of age apparently because they are worn out by hard usage and ill care. A horse yet living at Jackson, Mich., is fifty-four years of age. Flora Tompkins is now raising colts, and is over twenty-five years old. Goldsmith Maid, who made such magnificent time the other day—one mile of a four-mile heat, in 3:15½—is over nineteen years of age. She is regarded as the best horse in the prime of life at twenty. Get good stock, use it well, and it will serve you a full generation.

ANNE LAWLESS. Your poem is very crude. You are evidently young, but not without poetic talents. Study patiently both the art of poetic composition and read much of good models. No stamps for MS. return.

VIOLA D. Simply be patient, showing too much dignity of character to fret or feel spiteful. If the gentleman has eyes and sense he will soon discover the truth. To show him for plainly the state of your feelings for him is his policy.

SAM. JR. The recipe for curing not drunkenness but the thirst for liquor, is: Sulphate of iron, five grains; peppermint water, one drachm; spirit of nutmeg, one drachm; twice a day. This cure by serving to sustain the system injured to stimulate, and acting as a palliative to the "craving" all tapers feel. Try it.

MISS MARIA P. Now is the time to pot plants for winter blooming, and to slip your geraniums for next spring's bedding plants. Slip them in the middle of the month, and place plant in shade for several days after until it recovers vigor again. Carnations are splendid for pots. So are the double primroses. The double pink and red geraniums are preferable to the single. There is, as yet, no white double. It is a looked-for novelty.

L. N. Buggy-riding is healthy exercise, and the lady does right to take it when she can get it. If her escort is a proper person.—The rule in walking is to take the lady's arm on the side where she is most likely to be annoyed by people who are passing. Link arms when there are intimate relations existing, or when, in escorting, there is a necessity for your guard—as at a ball, or in a crowd, or in a strange place. In ordinary street-walking or promenading ladies and gentlemen do not link arms, not even if they are intimates—unless, as said, there is a necessity for it, to prevent annoyance or to ward off danger.

DRAGON. The test for kerosene (petroleum) is very simple. A good article should be colorless, or of a very light yellow, or white, and should be violet. When shaken with sulphuric acid, diluted with its own bulk of water, it should only color the acid a light yellow, becoming colorless when shaken by the treatment. At ninety-five degrees Fahrenheit it should not burn when a light is supplied. It should have no unpleasant odor.

Brooklyn Inquirer. These church sittings enough in this country for comfortably seating every human being in it. If people don't take the seats who is to blame? There are over 45,000,000 people in this country, and about 300,000,000 per year are raised and spent for religious purposes. The amount vested in church properties increases each decade, and the population to the increase of population. Thus in 1850 the church property amounted to \$3.78 for each person, in 1860 to \$5.31, and in 1870 to \$10.00.

A. I. C. Harrisburg writes: "Some time ago I became acquainted with a young lady at a friend's house and took a great liking to her, and she told my friend that she thought a great deal of me, and had taken her home with her, and she never asked me in. For several weeks now we have not seen each other. I am sure I never gave her cause to be angry with me. When she called upon me, she called upon her? Who has a lover for you, and has accepted your attentions, the late quietness may arise from circumstances wholly unconnected with your friendship. It can do no harm, and perhaps result in a continuation of your former amicable relations, if you make a pleasant call."

"RED EBB, JR." says he has been visiting a lady for several months, steadily, with full concurrence of her parents, and every encouragement from her father. He always takes her out, and she always pictures with him, and has accepted presents from him. For the last few Sunday nights, after escorting her home from church, he has taken her to the city of kissing her good-by; to which she has shown no objection. He wishes to know if, under the circumstances, he has acted ungentlemanly. We can hardly think that you have; and since the young lady has not censured you, it is scarcely necessary for you to censure yourself.

"PICNICERS." You state a case that is of frequent occurrence, and concerning which we have repeatedly given our opinion. The fact that the young ladies whose acquaintance you made are very respectable, refined and desirable acquaintances, and that you are young, and that "no girls may hesitate to accept as friends," does not alter the impropriety of the affair. In nine cases out of ten, the results of such affairs are unpleasant. Young girls should not make friends with strangers; and young men will rarely find girls that will so far forget their dignity worth the knowing. Though no harm may come of your acquaintance, yet you are fostering a spirit that is at variance with truly polite manhood, and encouraging in young girls an unwomanlike idea of the party you desire to admire in sisters or sweethearts.

L. M. MORRISON, Cornwall, writes: "I am nineteen, and left school three years ago, but have just had an offer of a college education. Do you think I am too old to recommence my studies? Would it be wise to accept? If I go, what course of study do you think most advantageous for a young lady? You are never too old to study, and we advise you to accept the advantages of a collegiate course by all means. You can best decide what course of study to pursue by the use you intend to make of what you learn. If you desire

TO A CHILD.

BY EBBEN E. REXFORD.

I saw a sculptured group to-day;
A child who, wearing at his play,
Was listening, with a smile, to hear
A fairy's whisper in his ear.
An artist hand had wrought the clay
Into a poem. All the day
I've wondered what the fairies tell
To young hearts wrapped in childhood's spell.

Sometimes I hear them at their play
Laugh out in such a happy way,
And talk in strange and unknown words
As glad as any song of birds.
That I am sure their bright eyes see
Some fairy friend that's hid from me.

And sometimes, when they sit alone,
Their eyes have grave and solemn grown,
And I can fancy that they see
Some glimpse of life's great mystery,
And that they understand and know
The secrets that perplex us so.

Oh, little children! If ye knew!
I think that angels talk to you,
And tell you secrets strange and sweet,
That your child-lips may not repeat.
Pray God your souls may always be
So pure that they can talk with thee!

Ethelind's Hate.

BY MARY REED CROWELL.

THE June moonlight was almost bright as day, and, standing in the open French window, her hands clutching the lace curtains with a grip as fierce as fate itself, Ethelind Heath could see Miller Joyce and Miss Remington, as they walked up and down the wide path in front of the house, arm in arm, and with a satisfied way that nearly drove her mad.

She was a slight, graceful girl, this Ethelind Heath, with dark Spanish eyes that, just now, were gleaming like kindling coals; whose brightness deepened and intensified with ominous swiftness, as she stood, like a statue, clutching the delicate lace curtains as if they had been a doom she had sworn to conquer, and staring at the two out in the sweet, soft moonlight.

Not a gesture, not an occasional louder word, not a bend of Miller Joyce's handsome head, not a note of the girl's low, melodious laugh, escaped her. She watched—her bosom rising and falling rapidly in time to the passionate pulsing of her heart. She listened, the pallor of her face increasing, while two flame fires burst on either cheek, and once, when the girl raised her head, and looked up into his handsome face with an indefinable gesture that Ethelind's woman-jealousy told her meant so much—then, a low, angry cry, almost hissing in its sudden sharpness, came surging between the set teeth, the quivering lips.

"And for this I have come to Fernwald!"

It implied more than it expressed—that one sentence she uttered, involuntarily, as she turned away from the window, and walked with unsteady step out of the drawing-room—through the music-room, and into the dimness and fragrance of the conservatory beyond, where, while Miller Joyce and Fay Remington walked to and fro for minutes that were blissfully short to them, were fearfully long to her—this, while Ethelind Heath, in a dark nook under a spreading lemon tree, crouched in a white, trembling, pulsing heap, as she reviewed all the treachery of the man she loved, the man whose rich, sweet voice came occasionally to her ears, as he talked with Fay Remington.

For this, then—this desertion of her standard—this ardent enlistment under another banner—Miller Joyce had half-reluctantly consented to accompany her on a visit to Fernwald. Now, it would be with complete reluctance he would be obliged to leave Fernwald and Fernwald's young mistress—even with Ethelind Heath, the passion-hearted girl, who, as he walked in the moonlight with Fay, was frantically twisting the opal and pearl engagement-ring on her hot, throbbing finger.

She was thoroughly roused—this gipsy-faced girl, with slumberous fire in her eyes when her life was calm and even—with a tempest of raging flame in them now.

"I want to know what accused fate brought me here! I want to know what I have done, that the great happiness of my life is taken out of my hand—and by her, by her!"

She did not utter the thoughts that were boiling in her brain—people never soliloquize unless they are ill—but by the hunted look in her eyes, the dumb wrath and anguish around her tense mouth, if you could have seen her, you could have almost guessed her thoughts.

He had not been her first lover—other men had sued for her favor, and raved over her heartlessness, when the secret was that her heart was sealed, waiting for the master hand to send its leaping waters forth. And Miller Joyce had been the man. Ethelind Heath loved him, for once, forever, with a constancy, a fervor, a jealousy that made all of life to her from the moment he kissed her, his betrothed wife. And now—to-night—after only seven weeks of unalloyed content—this!

As she sat there, a shade among shadows, Ethelind tried to assure herself of the impossibility of her lover's falsity; then, when her jealous heart indignantly, persistently refused the doubt, she knew that, of the two out yonder in the summer night—she hated one, to death!

Not him—ah! not him, with his handsome face and his courtly air; not him, who had wooed her with words that made her heart throb now, to remember; and for a second, Ethelind wished she might hate him, rather than this soul-sickening yearning for him that all her pride could not control.

But, that other! with the dark, violet eyes, into which Miller Joyce had looked. With the white brow, the tiny curls of yellow gold hair—with the bright smile, the winning way, the—

Her figure quivered with rage as she mentally enumerated Fay Remington's charms; and then, she sprang from her low seat, like a tigress who scents the prey.

"Like a fool I sit here and leave them to their own way! Like a fool I have let them have their own way, that now—now—ah! my flossy-haired beauty, if you knew a tithe of what is in store for you! if you even dreamed of what my hatred of you has devised, you would have left my lover alone!"

Then, as Miller Joyce and Miss Remington entered the drawing-room by one door, Ethelind entered by another—calm as a June sky, unruffled as a lake at a windless noon tide, to meet Fay's honest, fearless eyes.

"If I have kept your liege too long, Ethel, scold me, and not him. He really was not to blame."

Her sweet, girlish voice came laughingly to Ethelind as she was crossing the floor.

"No! How kind of you to absolve Mr. Joyce! I fear I shall not be so lenient. Fay, I wish you would play that operetta I mentioned yesterday."

Then, while the girl's fair fingers were flying over the keys in perfect rushes of melody,

Ethelind beckoned to Joyce, who lingered by the window.

"I fear you are establishing the reputation of a recreant knight. However, I am not afraid of you."

He leaned his handsome head near her—so near he might have stolen a kiss from her glowing pink cheek.

"Thank you, my darling! You need not be afraid of my disloyalty. Miss Remington is a charming girl, but you—are my sweet heart."

For an instant it seemed to Ethelind there was something inexpressibly sweet and tender and proud in his low words; then she was as positive there was a hidden sarcasm in them.

"Yes, I am," she said to herself, as they sat and listened to "Fiorella"; and if the words had been spoken, their bitterness of tone would have thrilled one strangely.

And yet, there was no perceptible trace of the hot, unreasoning fury raging in her breast in her cool, calm voice as she addressed Fay Remington an hour later, in Fay's bedroom.

"You are really going down to the old Red Mills to-morrow, and alone, Fay?"

Fay turned a laughing face toward Ethelind.

"To-morrow, and alone. Are you shocked that I dare so abuse the proprieties, or were you about to offer your company? To tell the honest truth, Ethie, I prefer to go alone, for I am determined to finish my sketch of the old bridge and wheel. If you go, I will talk all the time—so I don't want you, dear. Mr. Joyce offered to escort me, but I forbade him."

Ethelind's eyes flamed.

"He did?" she said, quickly; then, with wonderfully assumed calmness, went on.

"If you prefer to go alone, all right. Only be very careful when you cross that narrow plank they call a bridge. It makes me dizzy to think of it—the boards are so small and insecure, and the water boils so angrily along there."

She watched Fay closely, as the girl took down her beautiful hair.

"You are kind, Ethie, but never worry about me. I am clear-headed, and sure-footed."

And as they said good-night, there was murder in Ethelind Heath's eyes.

It was very quiet, away out in the lonely countryside, a mile from any house, with only three sweet noises of birds and bees, and the fall of the water over the old, half-rusted dam.

Three hours before, Fay Remington had gone singing down the narrow path, over the rattling little bridge, and into the old gray mossy-walled mill, sketch-book in hand.

Now, Ethelind Heath crept along the lonely path, with the thundering of the water drowning every step she took, every awkward effort she made at her devilish task.

With dilated eyes, and rapid pulse, with crimson flame on her cheeks, and strong, yet trembling hands, she worked—desperately, with ten times her natural strength; she worked with insane fury in her heart, and that same awful look in her eyes.

Board by board she tore up the flimsy plank of the bridge, and sent them floating down the whirling stream; the dim dusk coming on just as she had done, and turned to her cloak, hiding her bleeding hands within her thick gloves, and walking with slow, deliberate steps, and a face now deadly pale.

"I'll teach her to steal my lover from me! When she comes suddenly around that angle at the corner of the mill, she'll never notice the bridge is gone, and then—then—Ethelind shivered—"she'll know what it means to cross my path."

She quickened her pace, and hurried homeward, her face recovering some of its color, but looking so woefully wild that Miller Joyce stopped her in alarm as they met at the gate.

"Ethie, darling, what is the matter! Are you faint? are you sick? Where have you been? Aunt Agnes has been so worried that you were out so late; and Fay hasn't come, either."

A horrible coldness seized her. No. Fay hadn't come home!

She essayed to smile, but it was quite a failure.

"I believe I am sick, Miller. I was walking toward the village, and the sun seemed so hot, and my head hurt so. I will go to my room."

"Then you did not go to meet Fay! We thought perhaps you had. You went in just the opposite direction, then."

"Yes, just the opposite direction," she said, faintly, her face growing white, her lips blue, again.

"You had better go up-stairs, dear," Miller said, tenderly; "aunt Agnes will attend to you, and Fay'll be coming soon; she can take care of you nicely."

Ethelind laid her white, cold hand—stained a red that was only visible to her own wild, staring eyes—on his sleeve.

"You are always talking of Fay, Miller Joyce. Do you—did you—I mean who do you love best—of us two?"

Miller's eyes looked searchingly in Ethelind's; then, with a half-compassionate smile, he answered, quite gravely:

"Have you been so jealous as that, my darling! I have been foolish, perhaps, in not telling you a secret I have discovered since I came to Fernwald—which I kept for Fay's own sake, but which I think you should know, especially since you love me so well as to be jealous of my attentions to—my sister-in-law!"

He had expected to see surprise, but he was hardly prepared for the sudden, despairing horror that surged over her face.

"Your sister-in-law!" she repeated, mechanically.

"Yes—brother Will's wife—since early in the spring, when, for various reasons, there was a secret marriage. To-morrow is Fay's birthday, when she will be legally her own mistress, and Will is coming to claim her, and Ethelind! for such a joyous time, mirth—Ethelind! for Heaven's sake don't look at me so!"

"Take me—up-stairs. I am—deadly sick!"

Ah! she was truly deadly sick! What had she done—she, a miserable human being, to take a life in her hands!

She crept up the stairs, and locked herself in her room, positively refusing to see a face. Then, she endured all the terrors and tortures that lost souls suffer; then, with remorse at her heart, with unavailing penitence, she groveled on the floor, wrung by passions that shook her as the storm outside, so suddenly arisen, shook the lilies.

Below stairs she heard a sudden commotion, then, a heavy, slow tramp of men's feet, then a solemn stillness. A giddy horror seized her, they were bringing it home—bride, beautiful Fay, with water dripping from her hair—with staring, stony eyes, and—

A scream of fear and horror rose to her lips; then, with a dull, heavy sound, she fell

unconscious across the threshold, where, fascinated, she had stood to listen.

A pair of despairing eyes, from which all joy seemed to have taken its everlasting flight—Ethelind Heath's eyes, slowly opened to consciousness again, nearly twenty-four hours from the time when she had fallen across the threshold, fainting from terror and remorse.

Now, in the sunset, they wearily opened—to meet Fay Remington's, tender, anxious, looking in her own.

"Ethie, darling, thank God! you have opened those dear eyes again!"

A low, moaning wail from Ethelind's lips, then a sharp, hysterical cry, then—as the blessed, blessed truth came fully to her—that Fay was alive—that God had been more merciful than she—the tears came, cool, rushing torrents.

"Fay! Fay! this is too much! Can I ever thank God enough?"

"I never thought you loved me so, dear, but Miller says when the men carried poor old Jenkins in, when he had one of his terrible fits last night, that you surely must have feared it was me, for you screamed frightfully and they found you on the floor."

Ethelind gazed at the girl's bright, happy face as if she never could drink in enough of the sight.

"But you—you, Fay; you didn't come home, and—I—was so alarmed—"

A solemn gravity crossed Fay's countenance.

"It was God's mercy, dear, that I went around by Allie Dean's instead of coming straight home. The rain surprised me, as I sat sketching, and if I had not gone through the back door of the mill I would not have been here. The creek had arisen—we saw when we came home this morning—and the planks were all washed away."

"But—Never mind; you're safe now; and happy. For to-day your husband comes—doesn't he?"

A glorious flush crept over Fay's face.

"Yes, to-day! Miller said he told you. We will all be so happy—won't we?"

Happy—very quietly happy, perhaps, with a great, eternal thankfulness that she had been saved a terrible sin; but never again the Ethelind of other days; never merry, joyous again.

And Miller loves the gentle, subdued girl better than ever before, and wonders what has changed her so; but he, or no one else, ever dreamed how often she goes alone to her chamber, and kneels and thanks God for His mercy, and implores his renewed forgiveness.

Love in a Maze:

THE DEBUTANTE'S DISENCHANTMENT.

BY MRS. E. F. ELLET.

AUTHOR OF "ALIDA BARRETT, THE SEWING-GIRL," "MADELINE'S MARRIAGE," ETC.

CHAPTER II.

THE DEBUTANTE AND HER CRITICS.

ELODIE was handed out of the carriage at the door of a strange hotel, and led up the stairs to the reception-room.

Before she could turn to ask a question, she found herself alone. She wrapped her cloak more closely about her, and went to the door. The corridor was filled with people passing to and fro, all strange to her. She could see nothing of her escort.

She returned to her seat, and waited, chafing with impatience, some twenty minutes. Then she rose, and passing to the bell, was about to pull it, when the door opened, and a florid-looking, elderly woman entered.

"I beg a thousand pardons, Miss, for keeping you waiting," she began.

"Where is Mr. Blount?" the gentleman who brought me here?" demanded Elodie, sternly.

"I do not know, Miss. The clerk sent for me, and I came as soon as I could. I was to show you to your room, Miss."

Elodie hesitated an instant, and then rose to follow her, dropping her veil. She was conducted up one flight of stairs, and then the housekeeper opened the door of a corner room, and lighted one of the gas burners.

It was a square room, with lofty ceiling, and elegantly furnished. The carpet was a rich pile of velvet, the windows were veiled by draperies of crimson satin damask, corresponding with the covers of chairs and sofas.

On a table inlaid with mother of pearl and ebony, stood a vase full of fresh flowers. A door opposite the entrance was thrown open, revealing the white covering of a French bed, and a marble-top toilet table.

Without another question, the young girl crossed the room, and threw herself into one of the easy chairs. The housekeeper asked if she would have anything; but she only shook her head, and motioned her to retire. This woman did, closing the door softly behind her.

Elodie then rose, threw off her cloak, and drew a deep breath. She went and stood opposite a large square mirror at one end of the room. It reflected her entire figure, in her opera dress and the jewels that sparkled on her neck and arms. Her yellow curls hung over her flushed cheeks, and as she flung them back, she half smiled, wondering what Wyndham Blount had thought of her in her new character.

"I know I did not sing my best to-night!" she murmured; "but I looked nice, and he is no judge of music. I wish he had heard me sing my best!"

When she had waited half an hour longer, there was a knock at the door, and a woman came in, closely veiled. It was Madame Leona; and she seized Elodie's hand.

"Oh, my child, you had a narrow escape!" she exclaimed. "But you are safe now, thanks to Mr. Rashleigh."

"What did he mean, by bringing me to this strange place?" asked the girl, displeased.

"What could he do! There was no time to think. Your guardian, as he calls himself, was coming to claim you—to take you away—no doubt. If we had gone home, he could have followed us. Your uncle did all for the best."

"And how long are we to stay here?"

"I do not know. To-night, certainly."

"I have not a dress with me—not even night clothes."

"Our things will be sent; never fear; pray calm yourself. The monsieur has ordered supper for us."

"I do not want any."

"You must have refreshment; and I am fainting. Be sure all will be right."

Another tap at the door; and two servants entered, one of them bearing a silver tray. The snowy cloth was soon laid, and a tempting supper set out. The choicest wine was not wanting.

In spite of her vexation, Elodie was not proof against the entreaties of her companion that she would partake of the dainties. When

they had eaten—Leona not at all sparingly—the viands were removed, the wine and glasses being left.

"Now, it is late, my child, and you must go to bed. You will find our luggage sent in the morning; and a night sacque in my sachet."

"Sleep—in this strange place?" began the young lady.

"My dear, it is a first class hotel—only far down in the city. You need not be afraid. My room opens into yours—see."

And, leading the way into the bed chamber, she showed another door, which she opened. The bath-room was between the two, and the other doors were securely fastened. Leona produced a fresh cambric night dress, with brush and comb, and a neat embroidered cap, and laid them out for her young friend's use, while her own were thrown upon her bed.

The girl was ready to sink with fatigue and the exhaustion of her evening's excitement. She was not sorry to lay aside her robes and gowns, and to seek the needed slumbers.

These lasted till very late in the morning. Leona had been up for hours; had gone down stairs from her own room, to have a confidential interview with Rashleigh, and had superintended the storing away of their trunks, which had been sent for from their late lodgings. One, the smallest, was brought up for Elodie's present use; the others were bestowed in the baggage-room.

When the girl awakened from her profound repose, and started up, bewildered, unable to imagine where she was, a soft step entered the room, and a soft voice spoke encouragingly to her. Leona was ready to assist her, and had her morning dress all ready, for the key of the trunk was in her possession.

"Just brush your hair, dear child," she said, "and refresh yourself by a bath, and then put on this dressing gown. There is no one here. Then I will ring for breakfast."

The breakfast was served in the parlor. Both enjoyed the chocolate, broiled chicken, omelet, and snowy rolls, with the appetites of health. When the things were removed, Elodie began to question her companion.

"We cannot tell what it will be best to do," said Madame Leona, "till Mr. Rashleigh comes."

"Why not? He is not my master," replied the querulous young lady.

"No, my dear, of course not; but we have to act by our agent under the circumstances. He was to see the manager this morning."

"Then he ought to report himself. It is past one o'clock."

"He will be here soon, I doubt not."

"And is it to depend on him, what we do?"

"On the report he brings, in part at least."

"I do not like it at all," muttered Elodie.

"Have you seen the morning papers?"

"They are in my room. I will fetch them."

Leona brought in half a dozen of the most prominent city journals, and laid them on the table. The girl unfolded them one after another, devouring the different articles recording her triumph of the preceding evening.

"The Signorina Elena" was praised in unmeasured terms, as far as youth and beauty went; but two or three of the larger papers, in articles written by professed critics, spoke less kindly of her musical performance. Her voice, though fresh and full of melody, was pronounced deficient in force and compass; her rendering of many passages received unfavorable criticism. Her acting was praised but faintly; it was evident she had not understood the depth of the part she had assumed; but youth was in her favor; a few years of study might do much for her, etc., etc.

Elodie's chagrin and disappointment was unbounded. She crushed the papers in her hand, flung them on the floor with indignation, and asked what enemy had dared thus to attack her.

"Nay, my dear," replied her companion, "it is only what every debutante must expect. In the provinces you were a young queen; but here, the metropolitan critics are always severe. Success has to be won by strife with them, in which many wounds are received."

"These articles are all false!" cried the girl, starting up, her cheeks aflame, her eyes full of tears. "Everybody was pleased. You know how much I was applauded, and how many bouquets were thrown to me!"

"I know it, my pet; but these men never judge by marks of popular approval."

"What then? are not those signs of success?"

"The critics pretend to have a higher standard."

"Then I don't care about pleasing them at all. The audience applauded me, and that is enough."

"Yes; but you would find, and very soon too, that people are blindly led by these newspaper critics. If you defy their judgment, they are sure to put you down. The very listeners who applauded you, and threw flowers at your feet, will fancy they have been too kind, and will pin their faith to such articles as these, and hold back in future."

"Fools!" exclaimed the irate debutante.

"Yes, they are fools, like more than half the world. There is one sure way of securing popularity, by bringing round the critics."

"By bribing them. If your agent could have complimented each critic with a present of five hundred dollars, their verdict would have been unanimously in your favor."

"They would sell their judgment!"

"They make a practice of laying obstacles in the way of youthful artists, in order to extort bribes. But you could not have satisfied their cupidity. There was not money enough!"

"I would not have given one cent for praise that could be purchased!" cried the young aspirant after fame. "If these men require money as the price of their compliments, I want none of their good wills."

Leona shrugged her shoulders.

"I do not see any mention at all of you, madame?"

"Oh, no! I am too insignificant. They never take the trouble to abuse an ordinary singer. You may console yourself with that, child! If you had not shown that you have merit, you would not have been visited by their censure."

"It is not possible, then, to establish a reputation as an artist, if one has no money to pay these critics for their approbation?" asked Elodie.

"It is difficult. It would take years—unless—"

"Unless what?"

"Unless you had a European fame. Then you would have an advantage over them, and the public might dare to decide for themselves."

"But you know I cannot have that."

"I do not know why Mr. Rashleigh should not take you to Europe. You might succeed in Vienna, or even Paris. It would be the best thing to do just now."

A servant came to the door, and announced Mr. Rashleigh.

As he came in, both the ladies noticed that

he wore an expression of disappointment and perplexity.

CHAPTER III.

NEW ENGAGEMENTS AND PROSPECTS.

The agent brought unfavorable news. The manager, who had seen Wyndham Blount, declined giving Elodie a permanent engagement. He was influenced, too, by the unfavorable tone of the New York press. Her performance, though most highly creditable to one so young, had been inferior to that of the tried vocalists who were used to the highest range of art, and even the applause her brilliant beauty had commanded, was an offense to them as lowering the musical standard. She was not in the good graces of the company; and the prima donna had protested against her being again entrusted with so prominent a part.

The guardian of the young lady had avowed his intention of taking home his ward, who had grieved him unspeakably by her rushing into a professional career. Should she again appear, the manager said, there must be a controversy, and perhaps an appeal to the courts, in which the guardian's authority would probably be sustained.

Thus the door was shut upon the young artist in the metropolitan opera.

Elodie wept passionate tears as she listened. She felt disgusted with the profession she had adopted.

"I would give it all up, and go home!" she exclaimed, bitterly, "if Wyndham had not been so harsh!"

"He has not acted like a friend!" put in Madame Leona. "After all, he has no authority over you; nor can he compel your obedience to him."

"As her uncle—in whose house and under whose care she has lived from infancy, I have the superior claim," asserted Rashleigh.

"Nobody has any claim to my obedience," cried Elodie. "I grew up by myself; only my aunt took care of me. You never did anything for me, Mr. Rashleigh! If I had to be subject to either of you, I would rather it should be Wyndham, because he was kind to me, and gave me a home when I had none, and promised my aunt—"

Here she broke down in a tempest of sobs.

"The question now is," said Leona, "what is to be done?"</

this very morning to inquire for you, as he could not find you at the rooms where you have been staying."

"Antie, who was it?"

"And who looked so pale and sad, and spoke so tenderly of you, and said they had all missed you so much, and seemed almost heart-broken; for his voice faltered, and the tears stood in his eyes while he was speaking."

Elodie covered her face with her hands.

"That was Wyndham," she sobbed.

"Here is his card," said the dame, and she laid it on the stand before her guest.

"He was a real handsome man, and looked like a thoroughbred gentleman. He said his mother had grieved after you."

"Antie Brill!" exclaimed the girl, suddenly, dashing the tears from her eyes, "if you say the word, I will go back to my guardian, ask his pardon, and give up musical altogether!"

"Give up music, and after you have made yourself famous, and can make a fortune if you go on!" cried Mrs. Brill.

"It would be hard indeed! But, oh, I was so much happier at home!"

"No, you must not draw back," decided the injudicious adviser. "You must rain a fortune, and then you may come back."

"Do you think he is unhappy on my account?"

"Oh, no! not more so than is natural at first. I should not have told you. He will soon get over it."

"And care no more about me? Is that what you mean?"

"Not at all. He will become proud of your talents, when you have established yourself; and will admire you a great deal more than when you were almost a child—bound to obey him."

"Oh, that indeed!"

"And when you have made plenty of money, and are independent of him, then he will respect you the more."

"Yes, that will be so!" cried the girl, her face kindling; "and his proud sister will be glad to have my acquaintance, when I have a name in the world, and a fortune of my own."

"True, my dear; and when you are the equal of that musical husband of hers—whom I have heard you tell about. She would have nothing to do with him till he came from Europe, and had wealth of his own earning, and was run after by all the fashionables of the city."

"And could I be ever so much sought after for my music?" asked Elodie. "How long first, do you think, antie?"

"That depends on how hard you study. You might do it in one season."

"I wish I could! That would satisfy me. I would not care to go on. I would have a handsome house and gardens out of town, and antie Brill should live with me, and I would give musical receptions, and have all the eminent foreign artists, and have a brilliant circle of society; and repay Mr. Blount for his goodness to me. I always meant to do that!"

Sympathetic exclamations, and warm embraces, answered the young artist's dream of a golden future. They went on building their airy castles till the shadows began to gather in the corners; and then Elodie started up, and said she must return. Mrs. Brill begged only for one song before they parted.

She led the way to the room where stood the piano belonging to the Italian. He was not in, she said; and so the girl yielded to her entreaties for song after another, not heeding the deepening night.

A storm of applause at the end of one of the songs apprised them of the presence of the owner of the piano.

Elodie started up and hurried out of the room. But she was caught, as she passed out of the door, by her admirer, who had just understood that she was going to leave the city.

Before the girl could shake herself free, and in the presence of Mrs. Brill, the Italian had poured out his tale of love. He implored her to stay, to accept his proffered hand, to join him in his life work. The broken English in which he uttered his ardent protestations made them ludicrous enough; and it was struggling with a violent inclination to laugh that the girl silenced him by convincing him that she could give him no ground of hope.

Enrico begged at least that he might see her home; but this she refused. She would not be seen in his company. Mrs. Brill should go with her, if it was too late to go alone.

"But you shall not escape me," persisted the rejected lover. "I will join Signor's troupe. I will sing with the signorina; I will subdue her hard heart; I will!"

"If you join the troupe, I will leave it," cried the indignant girl. "You will gain nothing, sir, by persecuting me!"

"Per Bacco! persecute," repeated the despairing young man. "E una Medea—crudele—empia! Oh, me!" And, striking his forehead with his open palm, he dashed into his room, while the girl and the dame hastily descended the stairs.

The carriage had been dismissed, but another was presently called, and the two ladies were driven to the A—House. As they passed around a corner, the vehicle was stopped for a moment by a throng of carriages in front of a house brilliantly lighted up, with a canopy and carpet from the steps to the street.

A lady was just alighting, in party dress, attended by a young gentleman. Her "cloud" had fallen back from her head, and a bright face, with sparkling black eyes and clustering raven ringlets, was in full view for a moment.

"It is Rubama Seathor," exclaimed Elodie, shrinking back as far as she could behind the ample form of her companion. "Who is that with her? Can it be my guardian?"

"Drive on!" called out dame Brill to the man on the box.

He could not, for the carriages blocked up his way. Rubama's companion turned at the dame's voice, and Elodie saw that it was not Wyndham. It was a great relief to her, but she still trembled violently and leaned against Mrs. Brill's shoulder.

Then she remembered Rubama's marriage, and departure for Europe, and noticed that the gentleman with her was not her husband.

They drove on without further interruption to the hotel. Leona had been half wild with anxiety, and welcomed her young charge with effusion.

Antie Brill was persuaded to take supper with them—for dinner had long been over—before she took leave, and was driven to her own house.

(To be continued—commenced in No. 281.)

A CHICKEN died in Auburn, Illinois. It belonged to Mr. Ney or Mr. Lochridge, whose yards adjoined, but to which could not be determined. They quarreled about it, and tossed the carcass back and forth to each other over the intervening fence. Then Ney shot at Lochridge without hitting him. Then Lochridge seized a club and chased Ney. In the fight that ensued the revolver and the club were both used freely, and Ney was killed.

BACHELOR VS. BENEDICT.

BY S. M. FRAZIER.

I'm still a bachelor, living alone,
Cook my own grub and wash my own clothes;
I've no friends—no foes; hopes—fears—I have none—

Neither cares to disturb my repose.
My potatoes I roast on the ashes,
My Johnny-cake is baked on a board,
My light from a pinkish flash—
My dentition a huge yellow gourd.

My companions? Oh, yes, I have still some,
Tom, cat—Bull, dog—and Pug, the monkey.
My music is drawn from an old base-drum,
And timed by the bray of the donkey.
My household furniture cannot be beat—
My bed, 'tis a pile of new clover,
Round my pillow the crickets chirp so sweet,
But donkey will eat off the cover!

Labour! Oh, yes, I've work plenty to do!
Grasshopper, ant, musketo and flea,
Reduce to a science scratching, you know,
What'er pretense to neutrality.

One-half of creation lives upon 't other,
But all on me are ready to prey;
There's only one thing that gives me no bother—
Graybacks—no, greenbacks, rather say.

But, why don't I change my single estate?
Ah, off have I endeavored, forsooth!
But women have grown so self-ish of late,
My "other half" I fear is a myth.

For a lemon once squeezed who would incline?
A wife that has been another's I scorn!
I've not recovered that stray bit of mine—
What other dog carried it off?

Advertise! Thank you; I'll act on the hint;
And quickly I journeyed to town,
Ditto so—and straightway a proffer then came
From every sold house to perfection.

Writes one: "Friend Joond, you ask for a wife,
Now whose wife, dear sir, would you choose?
I've one thing to propose for a wife,
But she'll wear the breeches and shoes."

Again: "In my wife there's much to admire,
But then, sir, I've no objection—
She's good as a bellows to fan a fire,
And keeps a hot-house to perfection."

Another—another. All read the same:
But my eyes grow dim with my tears;
Oh, man! Oh, woman! which one is to blame
For the trouble that wears out my years?

"Man and wife," it long has been said, "are one;"
Which is the one 'tis hard to decide;
But rough family jars whenever begun,
Well manhood's boast and woman's pride.

Life a philosophy is—consensus obedi,
But conscience obedi bows to the will;
A benedict's life is good in its way,
But I'll remain a bachelor still!

Victoria:

THE HEIRESS OF CASTLE CLIFFE.

BY MRS. MAY AGNES FLEMING,
AUTHOR OF "THE DARK SECRET," "AWFUL
MYSTERY," "THE RIVAL BROTHERS," ETC.

CHAPTER XXVIII.

MURDERER! there could be no doubt of it—

this, then, was where the bridegroom was. While they had been accusing him in their thoughts, and vowing future vengeance, he had been lying here, assassinated by some unknown hand. The faces of all had whitened with horror at the sight; but Colonel Shirley, whose stern calmness nothing seemed able to move, lifted his head an instant after, with a face that looked as if changed to stone.

My boy," turning to Joe, whose teeth were chattering in his head, "how and when did you see this?"

"It was just now, sir," replied Joe, keeping far from the body, and looking at it in intensest terror. "My lord and Mr. Channing, they sent me up to the castle a-looking for you, sir, and you wasn't there; and I was a-coming back to tell them, so I was, down this way, which it's a short cut to Lower Cliffe; and as I got here, I saw a man standing up and looking down on this here, which it were Mr. Tom Shirley, as I knowed the minute I seen him. Then, sir, he turned round, and when he saw me, he ran away; and then I saw him lying there all over blood, and I got frightened and ran away, too; and then I met you; and that's everything I know about it."

"Can Tom Shirley be the murderer?" asked the bishop, in a low, deep voice.

"Circumstances, at least, are strong enough against him to warrant his arrest," said Mr. Channing. "As a magistrate, I feel it my duty to go in search of him before he escapes."

He hurried away, as he spoke; and the colonel, taking off his large military cloak, spread it on the ground, and laid his body on it. "Help me to place the body on this," he said, quietly; and, with the assistance of Mr. Sweet, the still bleeding form was laid upon it, and covered from the mocking sunlight in its folds. Then, at another motion from the colonel, the apothecary and the lawyer lifted it by the lower ends, while he himself took the head, and they slowly turned with their dreadful burden toward the house. Joe followed at a respectful distance, still with an excessively scared and horrified visage.

Mr. Channing had, meantime, been making an arrest. Getting over the ground with tremendous sweeps of line he had nearly reached the house, thinking to call the servants to aid him in his search, when he espied a tall, dark figure leaning against a tree, one arm thrown over a high branch, and the head, with all its dark curls, bare to the morning breeze, lying thereon. The magistrate went up and dropped his hand heavily on the shoulder of the drooping figure, and Tom Shirley lifted his face and looked at him. What a face! What a change in a few brief days! Usually it was red enough and bold enough; but now it was almost ghastly in its thinness and pallor. The face of the murdered man could scarcely have been more corpse-like—the black hair lightening the effect, as if hung damp and disordered around it, and the black eyes looking unnaturally large and sunken. Nothing, Mr. Channing thought, but remorse for some enacted crime could have wrought so vivid a change; but then, perhaps, Mr. Channing had never been in love—at all events, so crazily in love—and been jilted, like poor Tom Shirley.

"Well," said Tom, in a voice as hollow, and changed, and unnatural, as his face.

"Mr. Shirley, it is my painful duty to arrest you."

Tom sprung erect as if some one had struck him.

"Arrest me! What do you mean?"

"Mr. Shirley, I am very sorry; but duty must be fulfilled, and it is mine to make you my prisoner."

"Your prisoner, sir!" exclaimed Tom, in something like his customary tone, shaking him off as if he had been a baby. "On what charge?"

"On that of murdering your cousin, Leicester Cliffe."

Tom stood perfectly still—stunned. A volley of fierce words that had been rising hotly to his lips, seemed to freeze there. His face turned dark-red, and then whiter than before, and the arm he had raised dropped powerless by his side. Whatever the emotion which

prompted the display, the magistrate set it down to one cause, guilt; and again laid his hand firmly on the young man's shoulder.

"I regret it, Tom, but it must be done. I beg you will not offer any resistance, but will come with me peacefully to the house. Ah! there they go with the body now!"

Tom compressed his lips and lifted up his head.

"I will go with you, Mr. Channing. It matters very little what becomes of me one way or the other."

He raised his hat from the ground, to which it had fallen; and they walked on together, side by side. The body was borne before them into the morning-room, and through that into a smaller one, used by Vivia as a studio. It was strewn with easels, blank canvas, busts, and lay figures; and on a low couch therein their burden was laid. The cloak was removed. The colonel sent one of the servants in search of the physician, who had remained all night in the house, sternly warning the rest not to let a word of the event reach the ears of Lady Agnes or the young ladies. Hurst brought in warm water and sponge, and the blood was washed off the dead face. It was perfectly calm—there was no distortion to mar its almost womanly beauty, or to show that he had suffered in the last struggle. The blue eyes were wide open in the cold glaze of death; and the bishop, bending down, had just closed them reverently, as the physician came in. The examination that followed was brief.

The blow had evidently been given by a thick club, and he had been struck but once—death following almost instantaneously. The dead, too, from the appearance of the wound, must have been committed some hours previously; for the blood on his clothes was thickly clotting and dry. In silence they left the studio, and gathered together in the morning-room. The colonel had warned the servants to keep quiet; but who ever knew warnings to avail in such cases? Half a dozen gentlemen, the guests who had remained in the house the previous night, had been told, and were there already. The magistrate had taken a seat of authority, and prepared to hold a sort of inquest and investigate the matter. The prisoner stood near a window, drawn up to his full height, with folded arms, looking particularly proud, and especially scornful, guarded by Messrs. Sweet and Jones. The colonel took a seat, and motioned the rest to follow his example; and Mr. Channing desired Hurst, keeping sentry at the door, to call in Joe.

Joe, standing in the hall, telling his story over and over again to a curious crowd of servants, came in, looking scared as ever, and told his tale once more, keeping to the same facts steadily, in spite of any amount of cross-questioning. When this first witness was dismissed, the magistrate turned to the prisoner.

"Tom, what have you to say to all this?"

"Nothing, my lord."

"Is what this boy says true? Did he really discover you by the body?"

"He did."

"And why, if you are not guilty, should you fly at his approach?"

"I did nothing of the sort. Joe makes a mistake there, for I never saw him at all."

"And how, do you account for your presence there?"

"Very simply, my lord. I chanced to be walking through the grounds, and came to the garden path, just where he lay."

"How long had you been there when Joe discovered you?"

"I did not remain five minutes altogether. I saw and recognized who it was; and when I recovered from the first shock of horror, I turned and fled to give the alarm."

Mr. Channing leaned over and spoke in a low voice to Colonel Shirley.

"Some one told me, when here last evening, that the prisoner has been absent for several days—is it true?"

"Yes."

"Mr. Shirley," said the magistrate, speaking aloud, "you have been absent for the past week—will you inform us where?"

"I have been absent," said Tom, coldly, "I have been in Clifton."

"Where?"

"At the Cliffe Arms."

"Why were you not at home?"

"I decline answering that question, sir."

"Were you in the town last night?"

"No, sir. I was on the grounds."

Everybody looked at each other blankly. Tom stood up haughty and defiant, evidently perfectly resolved what he intended.

"It is very strange," said Mr. Channing, slowly, "that you should have been there instead of at the house here—your proper place. What reasons had you for such a course?"

"I decline answering that question, too, I decline," said Tom, with compressed lips and flashing eyes, "answering any more questions whatever. My motives are my own; and you nor any one else shall ever hear them!"

There was very little need for Tom to make his motives known. Not one present—the colonel, perhaps, alone excepted—but knew how madly he had been in love with his cousin, and that his jealous and scornful attitude toward her had driven him from home. All knew his violent temper, too; his fierce outbursts of passion; and believing him guilty, not one of them needed to be told the cause of his prowling about in the grounds in secret last night. Dead silence followed, broken by a rap at the door. Hurst opened it, and the gamekeeper entered, carrying in his hand a great bluegown, all stained with blood and thickly-matted tufts of hair.

"Gentlemen," said the man, coming forward and bowing, "this here is what did the deed! I found it lying among the marsh grass, where it had been chucked. You can see the blood and the hairs sticking in it. I know the stick very well. I have seen it lying down there near the Nun's Grave fifty times."

The gentlemen examined the stick—a murderous-looking bluegown, with a thick head, full of great knobs and knots—capable, in a strong hand, of felling an ox.

"And, gentlemen," continued the gamekeeper, "I have something else to say. Last evening, about half-past eight, as I was standing down near the park gates, I saw Mr. Leicester come through, walking very fast. I thought, of course, he was going up to the castle, and had come through Lower Cliffe by way of a short cut."

"Was he alone?" asked Mr. Channing.

"Yes, sir."

"Did you see any one following him?"

"I didn't wait to see, sir. Me and some more went up to see the fireworks, and that was the last I saw of him."

"I think the facts are quite strong enough to warrant his committal," said Mr. Channing to the colonel.

"I think so!" was the cold reply.

And the warrant of committal was made out immediately. Then there was a general uprising, a carriage was ordered, and Mr. Channing approached Tom.

"I am sorry—I am very sorry—but—"

"Don't distress yourself, Mr. Channing," said Tom, cynically. "I am ready to go with you at any moment."

The bishop came over, and began, in his urbane way, some pious admonition; to which Tom listened as unmoved as if he were talking Greek. The carriage came round to the door, and he and Mr. Channing turned to go. One glance he cast back toward the colonel; but he was standing with his face averted; and Tom passed the great portico of Castle Cliffe, the home of his boyhood, for the last time, and in five minutes was on his way to Clifton-lea jail, to be tried for his life for willful murder.

And still the news fled; and while the examination was going on below, it had been whispered, up-stairs and down-stairs, and had reached the ears of her who should have been the last to hear it. As all slowly dispersed from the morning-room, the colonel turned in to the studio to take one last look at what lay there, and found that another had preceded him. Besides the door of communication with the morning-room, the studio had another opening in the hall. It stood wide now; and standing over the rigid form, gazing at it as if the sight were slowly turning her to marble, was Vivia!

"Vivia! My God!" cried the colonel, in horror. "What do you do here?"

She turned and lifted her eyes; and the next moment, without word or cry, she had fallen back senseless in his arms.

It was the first time in his life he had ever seen Vivia faint. She was of too sanguine a temperament for that; and he nearly tore the bell down in his frantic summons for help, as he quitted the room of death and carried her up to her chamber. Jeannette came in dismay, with smelling-salts and cologne; and leaving her in her charge, the colonel went out. In the hall he was encountered by Margaret, looking, like everybody else, pale and wild.

"Is it true? What is this story they are telling? Has Leicester Cliffe been murdered?"

"Margaret, go to your room! It is no story for you to hear."

"I must hear!" exclaimed Margaret, in a suppressed voice, her dark eyes filling with a dusky fire. "Tell me, or I shall die!"

He looked at her in wonder.

"Margaret, you are ill. You look like a ghost! Do go to your own room and lie down."

"Will you tell me, or shall I go and see for myself?"

"If you will hear such horrors, it is quite true! He has been murdered!"

"And they have arrested some one for it," she hoarsely whispered.

"They have arrested Tom Shirley."

She clasped both hands over her heart, and a spasm crossed her face.

"And do you believe him guilty?"

"I do," he coldly and sternly said.

She sunk down with a sort of cry.

But he had other things to think of besides her; and he left her leaning against the wall, her hands still clasped over her heart, and her face working in a sort of inward anguish. So she stood for nearly an hour, without moving, and then Jeannette came out of the room, crying and wiping her eyes, followed by Vivia, who seemed to have no tears to shed.

"You ought to lie down and be nursed yourself, mademoiselle, instead of going to nurse other people," cried the housemaid. "You are hardly fit to stand now."

"It will not be for long, Jeannette," said Vivia, wearily. "All my labors here will soon be at an end."

"Your grandmamma won't see you, either; so your going is of no use," Hortense told me that she gave orders you were not to be admitted to her room."

It was quite true. In the revulsion of feeling that followed the awakening from her hysteria, Lady Agnes had been seized with a violent aversion to seeing her once almost idolized granddaughter. She could no longer think of her without also thinking of her connection with some wretched old woman in Lower Cliffe and a returned transport. She felt—justly enough—as if Vivia had been imposing on her all her life, and that she never wanted to see her again. And so, when Hortense opened the door in answer to the well-known gentle tap, she was quietly and firmly refused admittance, and the door civilly shut in her face. It was only one more blow added to the rest—only fulfilling the rude but expressive adage, "When a dog is drowning, every one offers him water"—but Vivia tottered as she received it, and stood for a moment clinging to the gilded stair-balustrade for support, with everything swimming around her. Then this, too, passed, as all blows do, and she walked back, almost tottering as she went, to her own room.

Even there, still another blow awaited her. Margaret stood in the middle of the floor, her face livid, her eyes blazing.

"Oh, Margaret," was Vivia's cry, as she dropped into her arms, "what has happened?"

But Margaret thrust her off with repulsion.

"Don't touch me—don't!" she said, in the same suppressed voice. "You murderer!"

Vivia had been standing looking at her as a deer does with a knife at its throat, but at the terrible word she dropped into a seat, as if the last blow she could ever receive had fallen.

"You," said Margaret, with her pitiless black eyes seeming to scorch into her face, and her voice full of its depth of suppressed passion—"you, who have walked all your life over our heads with a ring and a clatter—you, who are nothing, after all, but a pitiful upstart, here to eat them in scorn from your feet. I tell you, you are a double murderer; for not only is his blood on your head who lies down there a ghastly corpse, but another who will die on the scaffold for your crime!"

The corpse down-stairs could scarcely have looked more ghastly than did Vivia herself at that moment. Her white lips parted to speak, but no sound came forth. Pitilessly Margaret went on:

"You, who stood so high and queenly in your pride, could stoop to lure and wile, like any other coquette—could win hearts by your false smiles, here to eat them in scorn from your feet. I tell you, I despise you! I hate you! You've brought disgrace and ruin on him, on all connected with you, and you have broken my heart!"

"Oh, Margaret! have you no mercy?"

"None for such as you! I loved him—I loved him with my whole heart, ten thousand times better than you ever could do, and you had no mercy on me. You won his heart, and then cast it from you as a child does a broken toy!"

"Margaret, listen to me. I will be heard! I know you loved Leicester, but it was not my fault that—"

Margaret broke into a hysterical laugh.

"Loved Leicester! Is she a fool as well as a miserable jilt? Oh, you might have married him with all my heart!"

"And who, then—Margaret, is it possible you are speaking of Tom Shir—"

"No!" cried Margaret, holding out her hands with a sort of scream, "not his name from your lips! Oh, I loved him, you know it well; and now he is to be tried for his life, and all through you! Murderess you are—a double murderer; for if he dies it will be through you, as much as if you placed the rope around his neck!"

Vivia had dropped down, with her face hidden in her hands.

"Margaret, spare me! Oh, what have I done—what have I done, that all should turn from me like this? Margaret, I am going away. I am going back to my convent in France, where I shall never trouble you nor anybody else again. All the world has turned against me; but there, at least, I can go and die!"

"Go, then; the sooner the better. You are no longer needed here."

"Oh, I know it! All have turned against me—all whom I love; and I would die for them. Even you, Margaret, might forgive me now."

"Ask forgiveness from God! I never will."

Vivia's head dropped down on the arm of the chair.

Margaret left her, sought her own room, and appeared no more that day.

In the gray dawn of the next morning, when the first train went shrieking from the Clifton-lea depot, on its way to London, a slight, girlish figure, shrouded in a long mantle, and closely veiled, glided in, took a seat in a remote corner, and was borne swiftly away from the house to which she had returned so short a time before, like a triumphant queen, which she

onel; but the woman only looked at him vacantly.

"She sent her away," she repeated, "and kept the gentleman's child—the tall gentleman that was so handsome, and gave me the money. But she sent away my little Barbara; my only child, my only child! Oh, won't somebody go and bring her back?"

The colonel bent over her, took her other hand, and looked steadily into the dull eyes.

"Mrs. Widdman, do you not know me? I am the gentleman who left the child."

She looked at him silently; but her gaze was listless and without meaning.

"Your little Barbara has grown up—is a young lady, beautiful and accomplished—do you understand?"

No; she did not. She only turned away her eyes, with a little weary sigh, very sad to hear, and murmured over again:

"Oh, I wish somebody would bring her back! She was my only child, my only child!"

"If all no use!" interposed the doctor. "No earthly power will ever get her beyond that. Here is a case quite harmless and quite hopeless."

Colonel Shirley arose, and pressed something he took out of his waistcoat-pocket into the doctor's hand.

"Be good to her, doctor. Poor creature!"

"Thank you, colonel," said the doctor, glancing with infinite complacency at the bank-note for fifty pounds. "She shall have the best of care. Perhaps you would like to go over the whole establishment?"

"Not to-day, I think. We must catch the two o'clock train back to London."

The doctor led the way down-stairs, and bowed them obsequiously out.

Only one sentence was spoken as they drove rapidly down to the depot.

"Poor thing! she is greatly changed, but looks like Miss—Vivia," Mr. Sweet had said, and had received a look in answer that effectually silenced him for the rest of the way.

Next day, when the early afternoon train from London came steaming into Cliftonlea, Colonel Shirley and Mr. Sweet had got out and walked up the town. The latter gentleman speedily turned off in the direction of his own house, and the colonel walked, with a grave face, up High street, turning nothing at the right nor the left, until he stood knocking at the principal entrance of the town-hall.

The turnkey who opened it, opened his eyes, too; for, during the two months his young relative had been a lodger there, the colonel had not come once to visit him.

All Cliftonlea was in a state of ferment; for the assizes were on, and Tom Shirley's trial would begin to-morrow; and setting his visit down to this cause, the turnkey admitted him.

There was no difficulty in obtaining the desired interview, and in a few minutes a ponderous door swung open, the colonel was in the prison-cell, listening to the re-look of the door without, and retreating steps of the jailer.

The cell was as dismal as could be desired, and as empty of furniture, holding but a bed, a chair, and a table; but the August sunshine came just as brightly through the little grated square of light as it did through the plate-glass of Castle Cliffe, and lay broad and bright, and warm on the stone floor.

The prisoner sat, beside the table, reading a little book bound in gold and purple velvet, that looked odd enough in the dreary cell. It was a gift, prized hitherto for the sake of the giver—a little French Testament, with "To cousin Tom, with Vivia's love," written in a delicate Italian hand on the fly-leaf; but of late days Tom had learned to prize it for a sake far higher.

He rose at sight of his visitor, looking very thin, very pale, very quiet, and both stood gazing at each other for a few seconds in silence.

"Is it really Colonel Shirley?" said Tom, at last, with just a shade of sarcasm in his tone.

"This is indeed an unexpected honor."

"You do not need to ask, Tom, why I have never been here before," said the colonel, whose face, always pale lately, had grown even a shade paler.

"Scarcely. Do me the honor to be seated, and let me know to what I am indebted for this visit."

He presented his chair with formal politeness as he spoke; but his visitor only availed himself of it to lean one hand lightly on its back and the other on the young man's shoulder.

"Tom," he said, looking earnestly and searchingly at him, "I have come here to ask you one question, and I want you to answer it truthfully before God! Are you innocent?"

"It is late to ask that question," said Tom, disdainfully.

"Answer it, Tom!"

"Excuse me, sir. The very question is an insult."

"Tom, for Heaven's sake, do not stand balancing hairs with me! You always were the soul of honor and straightforwardness, and, late as it is, if you will only tell me, in the face of Heaven, you are innocent, I will believe you!"

Tom's honest black eyes, that never quailed before mortal man, rose boldly and truthfully to the speaker's face.

"Before Heaven," he said, solemnly raising his arm and dropping it on the purple book, "as I shall have to answer to God, I am innocent!"

"Enough!" said the colonel, taking his hand in a firm grasp. "I believe you, with all my heart! My dear boy, forgive me for ever thinking you guilty for a moment."

"Don't ask it! How could you help thinking me guilty, in the face of all this circumstantial evidence? But sit down, and let me look at you. It is good to see a friend's face again. You have been getting thin and pale, colonel."

"I am afraid I must return the compliment. I see only the shadow of the ruddy, boisterous Tom Shirley of old."

Tom smiled, and pushed back in a careless way his luxuriant black curls.

"Nothing very odd in that, sir. Solitude and prison-fare are not the best things I ever heard of for putting a man in good condition. How goes the world outside?"

"Much as usual. Have you no visitors, then?"

"None to speak of. A few mere acquaintances came out of curiosity, but I declined to see them; and as my friends," said Tom, with another smile that had very much of sadness in it—"thought me guilty, and held aloof, I have been left pretty much to my own devices."

"Your trial comes on to-morrow?"

"It does."

"You have engaged counsel, of course?"

"Yes; one of the best advocates in England. But his anticipations, I am afraid, are not over brilliant."

"The evidence is very strong, certainly, although merely circumstantial, but—"

"But better men than I have been condemn-

ed on circumstantial evidence. I know it," said Tom, very quietly.

"What do you anticipate yourself?"

"Unless Providence should interpose and send the real murderer forward to make a clean breast of it, I anticipate a very speedy termination of my mortal cares."

"And you can speak of it like this! You are indeed changed, Tom."

"Colonel," said Tom, gravely, "when a man sits within four stone walls, like this, for two months, with a prospect of death before him, he must be something more than human not to change. I have had at least one constant visitor, his lordship the bishop; and though I am perfectly certain he believes me guilty, he has done me good; and this small book has helped the work. Had I anything to bind me very strongly to life, it would be different; but there is nothing much in the outer world I care for; and so, let the result be what it may, I think I shall meet it quietly. If one had a choice in so delicate a matter—with another smile—I might, perhaps, prefer a different mode of leaving this world; but what can't be cured—you know the proverb. Don't let us talk of it. How is Lady Agnes?"

"Well in body, but ill in mind. She is shut up in her room, and I never see her."

"And Margaret?"

"Margaret followed her example. Sir Roland is laid up again with the gout at Cliftonwood."

"Castle Cliffe must be a dreary place. I wonder you can stay there."

"I shall be there but a short time now. My old regiment is doing some hard fighting before Sebastopol; and as soon as your trial is over, I shall rejoin them."

Tom's eyes lighted, his face flushed hotly, and then turned to its former pale and sickly color.

"Oh that I—!" he began, and then stopped short; but he was understood.

"I wish to Heaven it were possible, Tom; but whatever happens, we must content ourselves with the cry of the strong old crusaders, 'God wills it!' You must learn, as we all have to, the great lesson of life—endurance."

Poor Tom had begun the lesson, but his face showed that he had found the rudiments very bitter.

The colonel paused for a moment; and then looking at the floor, went on, in a more subdued tone:

"Somebody else is learning it, too, in the solitude of a French convent—Vivia."

Tom gave a little start at the unexpected sound of that name, and the flush came back to his face.

"You have heard from her, then?"

"I have done better—I have seen her. A shadow, a spirit, came behind the convent grate and shook hands with me through it. She was so wan and wasted with fasting and vigils. I suppose, that I scarcely knew her; and we talked for fifteen minutes with the grate between us. Satisfactory—was it not?"

"Very. Has she taken the veil?"

"Not yet. No thanks to her, though. It was her wish; but the superior, knowing it was merely the natural revulsion of feeling, and that she had no real vocation, would not permit it. Then Vivia wished to go out as a governess—think of that!—but Mother Ursula would not hear of that, either. She is to make the convent her home for a year, and if, at the end of that time, she still desires it, she will be permitted to enter upon her novitiate. I will go by Paris, and see her again before I depart for the Crimea."

"Does she know—?"

Tom paused.

"She knows all. She gave me this for you."

The colonel produced his pocket-book, and took from between the leaves a little twisted note.

Tom opened it, and read:

"My Brother—I know you are innocent. I love you, and pray for you every night and day. God keep you always!"

That was all.

Tom dropped his face on the table without a word.

Colonel Shirley looked at him an instant, then arose.

"I shall leave you now. Remember, I have firm faith in your innocence from henceforth. Keep up a good heart, and, until to-morrow, farewell."

He pressed his hand.

But Tom neither spoke nor looked up; and the colonel went out and left him with his head lying on the wooden table, and the tiny note still crushed in his hand.

(To be continued—commenced in No. 269.)

Mrs. Estabrook's Maid.

BY BETT WINWOOD.

"WHAT ARE YOUR REFERENCES?"

"I have none," was the timid answer. "I—was never out at service before, madam."

"What have you done, all your life, until now?"

A flush went over the pure, sweet face.

"It is only a little while since I was compelled to earn my living."

Mrs. Estabrook gathered her brows. It was the most unheard-of piece of presumption for a pretty girl to apply for a position of trust without a single voucher for her respectability. But somehow she could not find it in her heart to distrust the demure little creature.

"What is your name?" she asked, after a pause.

"Elsie Merton."

The sweet voice faltered a little, as if unaccustomed to the sounds it uttered. In spite of her pre-occupation Mrs. Estabrook noticed the hesitation.

"I'm very particular in regard to the maid I employ," she said, giving Miss Merton a keen glance. "I would like a trial of your skill, if you please, before we proceed further with this interview. Do you arrange hair nicely?"

"Yes, madam."

"You shall try your skill at mine."

Mrs. Estabrook's hands made two or three rapid passes over her shapely head—they seemed like nothing more—and a torrent of blue-black hair rolled down over her shoulders like a storm-cloud.

On a silken divan at Mrs. Estabrook's elbow sat Miss Van Kortland. She was devouring French bon-bons with her teeth, while her keen, speculative eyes devoured Miss Merton. She did not look particularly amiable for the advent of a pretty face at the Grange was not a matter for self-congratulation; and Miss Merton had a complexion like wax, the reddest lips and the loveliest eyes Miss Van Kortland had seen for many a day.

"A reduced gentlewoman," she muttered sotto voce. "I don't like the tribe. You had better dismiss her without further parley, my dear Lucia."

But Mrs. Estabrook had no such intention. She had a man's ardent admiration for a lovely face, and Miss Merton's interested her greatly.

"Hush!" she whispered, with a warning gesture, and leaned back in her chair rather listlessly as the would-be maid approached and began her manipulations.

Ten minutes of suspense, and then a cry of rapture broke from Mrs. Estabrook's lips. Swiftly and deftly those pretty, slender hands had crept in and out her scented tresses, and the result was such a marvel of classic beauty and grace as Celeste, the Parisian maid, who had taken "French leave" only two days before, had never equalled in her palmist days.

"You're a jewel, Miss Merton!" she exclaimed, enraptured. "I'll take you on trial, at any rate. I'm quite sure you will suit me."

"But her references?" whispered Miss Van Kortland, frowning a little.

"Bah! If she pleases me, that is quite enough."

"But it is very imprudent to admit a person of whom you know so little into the family."

"I would trust anybody with a face like that."

"I wouldn't."

Suppressed as were the tones in which these "asides" were uttered, Miss Merton must have been enabled to gather their import, for a faint tinge of color flowed over her oval cheeks.

"Madam," she said, with dignity, "I agree to accept my discharge at a moment's warning, whenever you are pleased to dispense with my services."

"That's fair, at any rate," and Mrs. Estabrook's eyes flashed a glance of triumph at Miss Van Kortland. "When can you come for good?"

"My trunk is at the door. I need not go away at all, if madam wishes me to remain."

"I do wish it. How fortunate that you brought your luggage! I am accustomed to the services of a maid, and feel quite lost without one. Now you can begin your duties at once. It will seem like old times again, not to be compelled to wait on myself, and she laughed gleefully. "We'll get on famously together, Miss Merton. Now pull that bell-rope, please, and the housekeeper shall show you to the room Celeste occupied. It is next mine, so you will always be within call when I want you."

Half an hour later, Miss Elsie Merton, with a coquettish lace affair, that looked a world too nice for a lady's maid, tied over her head, tripped out of the glass door opening on the terrace, evidently bent on taking a little promenade in the spacious grounds.

She had scarcely traversed one walk, and turned into another, however, when she stumbled upon a tiny summerhouse overrun with vines. Almost the instant she caught sight of the miniature Paradise, she stood stock still, and uttered a loud exclamation.

Not at the sylvan beauty of the place; oh, no! Elsie's pretty blue eyes, if the most beautiful landscape that ever yet came fresh and glowing from the hand of the Great Artist had been suddenly spread before them!

But the handsomest man she had ever seen was lying on a bench in the fragrant shadow of the vines, fast asleep! And just as her startled gaze fell upon him, a ferocious-looking bulldog had crossed the path, and given one tremendous bound to his side.

Did she expect a bit of tragedy to be enacted right before her eyes? At any rate, a succession of the most piercing screams followed that first startled cry, and she rushed into the summerhouse, shrieking at the top of her voice:

"Awake! For God's sake, awake!"

The young man lifted his fringed lids, and two very beautiful brown eyes were turned upon Elsie's face in a stare of unfeigned astonishment.

"What—what's the matter?" said he, rather drowsily.

Instead of recollecting in terror from the savage-looking beast, he dropped one of his slender hands on the dog's head, in a gesture of one caressing and caressing.

Elsie sunk into a rustic chair, hot blushes of mortification dyeing her cheeks.

"Pardon," she faltered. "I made such a ridiculous mistake! I'm quite ashamed of myself."

The young man raised himself on one elbow. He was looking at her with a good deal of interest now. "What a lovely girl!" he thought.

"Did I hear somebody scream?" he asked, after a slight pause. "Or was I dreaming?"

Elsie's face grew redder than ever.

"Pardon," she said again. "I was dreadfully frightened. The dog looked so savage, and you were lying there so helpless—I thought—I expected—"

She stammered, and was so confused she could not utter another word. An amused smile curled the young man's lip.

"I see," he answered. "But Cesar would not injure me for the world. He is a great pet of mine."

"He looked so vicious," faltered Elsie, with a visible shudder.

"But I assure you he is not dangerous."

Then he added, in a lower voice:

"You must be a brave young lady, or you would have run away or fainted outright."

"I could not do that, and I was afraid to do the other," Elsie replied, with an air of naive frankness infinitely amusing.

Another silence, and then he asked:

"Will you not tell me whom I have the pleasure of addressing?"

"I am Elsie Merton, Mrs. Estabrook's maid."

"And I am Paul Vincent, Mrs. Estabrook's brother."

He held out his hand to her, with an engaging smile, and of course she dropped hers into it.

"I trust we shall be good friends, Miss Merton."

"I don't know," shaking her saucy head. "Would Mrs. Estabrook be pleased?"

"Why not?"

"I'm only a servant, you know, and I thought—I have always heard—that—that—"

"Never mind," he interrupted, taking pity on her confusion. "You would say that the difference in our stations precludes the possibility of friendship. But I am exceedingly democratic in my notions, and do not recognize the distinctions created by wealth alone. So you shall be my friend if you will."

"I'm so glad that I may," and she thanked him with such a charming blush and smile that Paul Vincent was more enchanted than ever.

"How delightfully unsophisticated," he thought. "Really Lucia has found a treasure in her new maid."

Elsie did not linger many minutes longer. She was too worldly-wise or too modest—Paul would have said the latter. But Paul was manifestly wrong in his conclusions, some times, let it be known.

Several days went on, and whether accident-

tally or by design, they managed to meet once every twenty-four hours, but always in the grounds. Paul was far too shrewd to parade his interest in the new-comer publicly; and Mrs. Estabrook was not aware, for a long time, that he had formed her pretty maid's acquaintance.

Miss Van Kortland was more observing, however. But there had long been an understanding that she and Paul were to unite their hands and fortunes. She was a very proud woman, and the fact of this tacit engagement kept her silent. Not for all the kingdoms of the world would she have exposed her recreant lover. These proud, reticent women can endure untold tortures and make no sign. I'm sure Miss Van Kortland was not sleeping on a bed of roses just at this point in her career.

One day she stumbled upon Paul and Elsie quite accidentally, in the acacia walk. Paul's arm, I blush to confess, was considerably nearer the girl's waist than it should have been, and his lips close to her pink ear, as he leaned toward her.

Miss Van Kortland turned white as a sheet at the sight. She would have fled precipitately, but it was too late—they had seen her. So controlling her agitation as well as she was able, she walked straight toward them, with head erect, and flashing eyes.

"Mr. Vincent," she said, with freezing hauteur, "you may not be aware of the fact, but Mrs. Estabrook has been looking for some time, for the young person in your company."

It was a cruelly cutting speech, but Miss Van Kortland did not utter it without a purpose. She distrusted Elsie, and hoped to bring Paul to his senses by a bit of blunt speaking.

Without waiting to learn the effect of her words, she passed on.

Later in the day, happening to enter the conservatory for a bouquet, she had scarcely begun clipping at the flowers, ferns and vines that effectually screened her, when the sound of suppressed sobbing reached her ears.

"Do not cry, Elsie," said Paul's musical voice, before she had time to stir. "I can't bear to see your tears."

"It was so unjust, so cruel, for Miss Van Kortland to speak of me as she did," came the agitated answer. "You have no idea how it hurt me."

"Poor girl! I am so sorry."

"A person in my position must submit to every humiliation, however. I ought not to complain."

"You have my sympathy. I have been longing to tell you so, and followed you in here on purpose."

"Your sympathy?" she echoed, in tender accents of blended ecstasy and reproach. "Is that all you have to offer?"

What did she mean? In her surprise and consternation at the girl's audacity, Miss Van Kortland dropped her shears, and they fell on the floor with a clanging noise that might have aroused the Seven Sleepers.

"We are watched," cried Elsie, in a thrilling whisper, and stepped out of the glass door into the garden, leaving Paul to return to the parlors by himself.

When they were both gone, Miss Van Kortland, with her knees knocking together, turned to follow. She felt very angry. Before she had taken three steps, however, something rustled under her foot. It proved to be a folded bit of paper. Picking it up, and spreading it open, she read with bated breath, these words:

"Look sharp. No fooling. If you have any private scheme of your own, you must give it up. To-night, without fail."

This note had neither date nor signature. Miss Van Kortland was possessed of both tact and shrewdness. She read it twice, pondering each word, and then felt assured that she comprehended its enigmatical meaning.

She said nothing to either Paul or Mrs. Estabrook, but hunted up the only man-servant about the premises, and gave him some very careful instructions.

On retiring, that night, she extinguished the lamp, and threw herself on the bed without removing any of her clothing. About twelve o'clock, a handful of pebbles clattered against the glass of the window next her own—that belonging to Elsie's apartment. In an instant she had risen to her feet, and crept to the door.

An interval of suspense, and then muffled footsteps crossed the landing and descended the stairs. Miss Van Kortland knew instinctively, that there were burglars outside the house, and the footsteps were Elsie's going down to let them in.

Notwithstanding the fact that she had been in a measure prepared for this, the horrible reality left her helpless for a few moments. Presently, while she still covered beside the half-open door, not daring to advance a step further, a pistol shot rang sharply through the house, there were curses and cries, and by and by Elsie Merton appeared suddenly on the landing, wringing her hands, and uttering the most appalling shrieks.

"Murder! Fire! Thieves!" she yelled, as if beside herself.

Of course the whole house was aroused. Paul Vincent rushed out upon the landing with a light.

"What is it?" he cried, seeing Elsie standing there, white as a ghost, leaning against the wall for support.

"Thieves!" she gasped, in a faint voice.

"Good heavens!" ejaculated Mrs. Estabrook, making her appearance in a shabby old dressing gown drawn loosely about her. "I wonder we were not all murdered in our beds."

At this instant, Jim Roberts, the servant, came up stairs. He carried a pistol that was still smoking from its recent discharge.

"I fired at the villains," he said with a grim smile. "There were two on 'em. But my shot failed to take effect. They fled."

Paul stared at him with wide open eyes.

"How does it happen that you were up, dressed, and ready for them?" he demanded.

"Miss Van Kortland told me what to expect."

"Miss Van Kortland?"

Hearing her name uttered in accents of such unfeigned surprise, that lady staggered weakly up to the astonished group.

"It is true," she said. "I had an intimation of what was about to occur, and warned Roberts. That young person is a confederate of the burglars."

She pointed her finger at Miss Merton, and had the satisfaction of seeing the girl flush purple, and then turn "hite as death."

"This false!" cried Elsie. "Oh, how can you malign me so cruelly?"

Writhing her hands, she burst into a passion of hysterical tears. Miss Van Kortland's fine lip curled in scorn. She was unmoved by this outbreak.

"I never make meaningless assertions," she said. "Here is the proof that I have spoken truthfully."

She laid the note she had found in Paul's extended palm. Running his eye over it hastily, the color forsook his cheek.

"This is very strange," he muttered, and

passed the note to Elsie, who glanced at it in her turn.

"This proves nothing," she said, after a pause. "I deny all knowledge of the note. Miss Van Kortland must have written it on purpose to ruin me. She has seemed to dislike me ever since I came."

Paul looked distressed, at a loss. There was a moment's dead silence, broken by a sudden roll of wheels in the gravel-drive outside.

"What now?" muttered Mrs. Estabrook; and signed for Roberts to go down stairs.

After a brief absence he returned, followed by a portly-looking man of forty-five. It was Judge Estabrook. He had been away in New York, ever since Elsie's advent at the Grange, and had now returned home quite unexpectedly.

"What is the meaning of all this?" he asked, slipping one arm about his astonished wife, and looking all around.

Just then his gaze encountered Elsie's cowering figure. She was trying to shrink away. One distinct glimpse of her pallid face, and he started back in a sort of recoil and perturbation.

"Lucia!" he said, sternly; "what is that creature doing here?"

"Elsie Merton, do you mean? She is my maid."

"Your maid! That adventures!" and Mrs. Estabrook had never seen her

SOME TRUTHS.

BY JOE JOY, JR.

How many men who would a pen
Live on without a pension?
Of such there are a million men
Whose names receive no mention.

A house where one would gladly stay
Could hardly be a stable.
And one would scarcely wish to lay
His head upon a lady's tail.

There are some hills which are as steep
As any city steeple.
But, why should all who at them peep
Be designated people?

A boy who strives his task to con
Should not be called a condor.
And if a month he has won
It would not be a wonder.

I'm sure to walk the ocean sands
You'd have to wear some sandals.
But, don't your neighbor's follies scan,
To raise prolific scandals.

A truant youth may run and hide
To save some awful hidings.
But none need question of the tide
For any wished-for tidings.

A dress may never be much worse,
But then it may be worsted.
A stalk that is quite full of burrs
Is not considered bursted.

A man who daily seeks the bar
Is often led to borrow.
High grapes are always very sour—
We've found it to our sorrow!

Nothing but very common paste
We've often found our pastry;
No proud heart beating 'neath a vest
Belongs unto our vestry.

The dust that lies upon the floor
Is very far from floral;
Songs warbled by a tuneless corps
Of course are very choral.

Not every man who's had a trance
Has seen the "Venetian transit";
A man whose heart is set on lands
Cannot be called a lancet.

A man who wildly wields a pick
Has oft got in a pickle.
And many an unwholesome stick
When called to use the sickle.

LEAVES

From an Actor's Life;
OR,
Recollections of Plays and Players.

BY GEO. L. AIKEN.

XI.—The Old and New Nationals—Spear, the Comedian—Old Spudge and Old Piff—I am interviewed by Manager Pelby—A Hasty Exit—William Pelby, Junior—Fleming and Dan Setchell—the Comedian's Joke—Bill Parker, the Tall Captain of Supernumeraries—A Blow in the Dark—Free Dollars Reward.

WHEN I became familiar with the theater under the management of William Pelby, it was no longer known as the Warren, but was called the National. This name has been applied at different times to different theaters in almost every city of the Union.

Mr. Pelby was an American by birth, but had achieved, I do not know under what circumstances, quite a reputation in England as an actor, and had been presented there with a gold medal as a token of admiration for his performance of the character of Hamlet, in Shakespeare's tragedy of that name.

Mrs. Pelby was very proud of alluding to this circumstance, and always finished her little story with:

"Mr. Pelby was born in this country, and so was I. I don't wish to say anything against my own land, but they never did anything of that sort for him here."

The citizens of Boston took Mr. Pelby very kindly in hand, however. The Tremont Theater was built for him, but some difficulty with the stockholders caused him to withdraw from its management, and a Mr. Warren built the theater for him that was first called after him, then changed to National, and Pelby controlled the destinies of this time-honored institution up to the day of his death.

It was prosperous while he lived, but it passed through many fluctuations of fortune after his death, being controlled by speculative managers until one morning, I being then a member of its dramatic company, as I was eating my breakfast, a friend rushed into the house and told me the theater was burnt.

I left my breakfast unfinished, and went to take a sorrowful look at the ruins. Not a wall was left standing; all was black desolation, and all my stage wardrobe had been destroyed by the flames.

The theater was rebuilt, but the prestige of its name and fame had departed. New National never supplied the place of the Old.

A Mr. Leonard, an auctioneer, lost a fortune in trying to make a first-class theater of it; the locality was strongly opposed to this. W. J. Fleming laid his withering managerial hand upon it, and W. B. English turned it into a Varieties Theater, and then it burned down again.

It was never rebuilt as a theater.

Speaking of W. J. Fleming, reminds me of a funny observation made by that excellent comedian, Dan Setchell, concerning him. Poor Dan! he sailed from some port in Australia homeward bound, and the vessel was never heard of afterward. He was a gentle gentleman, and a most excellent actor; equal, in my opinion, to Mr. E. Burton, whom he greatly resembled in figure and style of acting.

Mr. Fleming may have had good intentions in his managerial experiments, but they were invariably attended with bad luck. The poor actors who engaged with him were sure to have their salaries reduced one-third in a short time. This was called playing for "two-thirds salary," and money were lucky to get that, for it often happened that when salary day arrived, the treasury was empty.

During the war, Fleming, by the influence of friends, got an appointment as paymaster in the army—a most singular appointment for a man who was never known to pay anything, if he could help it.

One day somebody asked Dan Setchell where Fleming was and what he was doing, and the comedian replied:

"He's doing well. He's got the Army of the Cumberland on two-thirds."

I have but one remembrance of Manager Pelby. I had outgrown my usefulness as a child-actor, and was no longer in requisition, but I often got behind the scenes, on various pretexts, to witness the performances. On one occasion I carried a chair to Mrs. J. B. Booth, Jr.'s, dressing-room, and instead of retiring, as it was expected I would do, I hid myself among the scenery at the back of the stage until the play began, and then I took my position in one of the wings to witness it.

I have a vivid remembrance of the name of the play on this occasion. It was called "Maurice the Woodcutter," an old-time melodrama. Spear, the low comedian of the theater, "Old Spudge," he was called; I never discovered why, though I knew him intimately years after—and Pelby, for a similar myster-

ious reason was called "Old Piff," was perched upon the top of a hoghead haranguing a multitude of supernumerary peasants upon some grievance committed by their "Tyrant Lord," when the top of the hoghead breaks and lets him through. That is all I remember of the piece then, and I have not the slightest recollection of what it is about now, for my remembrance of the ludicrous disappearance of "Old Spudge" was brought to a sudden close by a gruff voice demanding:

"What in thunder are you doing here?"

The voice did not say "thunder," but that will look better in print than the other word.

I turned, and, oh, horror! there stood "Old Piff." In trembling accents I explained the circumstance that had brought me there.

"Get out—sudden!" was the harsh rejoinder.

I did. I stood "not upon the order of my going," but went "at once," in momentary expectation of being aided in my descent of the stairs that led from the stage to the door opening upon the street by the toe of a boot.

I was terribly frightened by this encounter with "Old Piff," and never ventured behind the scenes again during his time.

Years before I had been "Cora's Child" in Pizarro—his son, also named William, appearing as Rolla. As the Junior William never made a second appearance to my knowledge, and as I never met him in after years as an actor, I am inclined to think he did not inherit his father's talent.

Wm. Pelby, Senior, was, undoubtedly, a good actor, and a good manager—which does not always follow. He was a strict disciplinarian, and of rather an irascible temper. He offended a tall young actor, who was known as Bill Parker, and became a "Negro Minstrel" when that kind of entertainment was first introduced to the public, and used to sing "Jeannette and Jeannot" in a high falsetto.

Parker held the important post of "Captain of Supernumeraries," and this led to a misunderstanding with the manager, and Pelby indulged in some strong language, but Parker was too sensible to "talk back."

But that night, between the acts, as Mr. Pelby was descending the dark stairs that led beneath the stage, he ran his face against somebody's fist in a most extraordinary manner.

He hurried to his dressing-room, in a towering passion. Two minutes afterward he was on the stage, holding a wet piece of brown paper—"in the alarm of fear caught up"—over his left eye, and wildly proclaiming:

"Where is he—where is the scoundrel that struck me? Five dollars reward to any one who can tell! Five dollars! Five dollars for the scoundrel!"

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"I hope you won't. I wish Harry was at home," said Helen, ready to cry, and knowing the impossibility of doing anything with Lucille by herself.

Lucille speedily attired herself, and sought the number given in the advertisement. She recognized the place at once, and having been admitted to the presence of the lady of the mansion, frankly and truthfully told her story.

Now, Mrs. Stacy had not kept one of the most elegant private boarding houses in New York for ten years, without being, by this time, a pretty thorough reader of human nature. She at once decided that Lucille Stanhope was what she pretended to be, and that the silver and fine linen would not be at all endangered by association with her. Moreover, she saw that Lucille would prove sufficiently quick and dextrous in her new calling, and that her handsome, not to say distinguished, appearance, would be an ornament and an attraction to her dining-room.

The result was, that after half an hour's consultation, Lucille was engaged at eight dollars a week, her duties to commence at once.

Flushed and elated with success, Lucille reached home as Harry and Helen were sitting down to dinner. Helen was vehement in her lamentations, but to Lucille's surprise and gratitude, Harry came over to her side.

"Lu knows," said he, "that I would be glad to keep her here, and take care of her always, but if she will be independent, I will believe she will find Mrs. Stacy's a pleasant place than the store. She will not be snubbed by rude people so often, or afraid even to speak to a companion in business hours, or sit down if she has a spare moment. She will be saved daily walks through snow and rain and heat, and as to the prejudice hanging around the position, I am glad she is able to raise herself above it. Of course, a common hotel couldn't be thought of, but a select, respectable place like Mrs. Stacy's, may do very well. And if she doesn't like it, the doors here are always open to her to come back, and she knows it."

Lucille warmly thanked Harry for his championship, and after dinner made her arrangements for taking up her new post.

All her elegant dresses were packed away; the very plainest and neatest, and all her snowy white aprons, with one nice black luster for street wear, put into her smallest trunk, and after a parting with Helen and the baby, which she endeavored to make as cheerful as she could, Miss Lucille Stanhope, lady of leisure, dropped her identity and became a busy working bee in the hive of Madam Stacy.

Now say that it was altogether a easy and delightful and agreeable to Lucille to fill her unaccustomed station, would not be true. It was, for a few days, very trying, though the work itself was light.

But the consciousness that she was doing right sustained her. She felt that honest work, no matter what kind, could not lower her womanhood so long as she was true to herself. And she felt sure, too, that by quietly walking in the path of duty, nothing would be lost in the end.

Of the five or six dining-room assistants with whom she was associated, all were quiet, respectable girls; but she made no special friends, though polite and sociable with all; and as she had a dainty knack of arranging tables tastefully, and was swift in her movements, she was soon regarded by Mrs. Stacy as a valuable acquisition to her domestic retinue.

One day, when Lucille had been there about six months, she was in her usual position as the boarders came in to dinner.

One of them, a Mr. Glover, had a friend with him, that room, and as her eyes fell upon him, to Lucille's intense astonishment she recognized an old friend—once almost more than a friend—of her own and her family.

He, too, knew her, and was springing forward in the old, impetuous way she remembered, to speak to her, when she made a quick motion forbidding him, and turned instantly to her duties, with a burning face.

Richard Ryland was so much the gentleman, and knew Lucille so well, that he instantly comprehended she did not wish to be made the observed of all observers in that well-filled dining-room. He respected her wishes, and whatever his surprise at seeing her there, he betrayed it neither by word or look.

She avoided the part of the table where he sat, and not a syllable passed between them.

But, a half-hour after dinner, Mrs. Stacy sent for Lucille to come to her room. Instantly obeying the summons, Mrs. Stacy said, with a pleasant look:

"Miss Stanhope, there is a gentleman in the back parlor, who tells me he is an old friend of yours."

"Do you mean Mr. Ryland?" asked Lucille.

"Yes."

"I saw him at dinner, but did not speak with him."

"So he tells me. He says he saw that you did not wish to speak with him then, but now he commissions me to ask if you have any objections to seeing him in the parlor."

"None, with your permission."

"You have it, of course," said Mrs. Stacy, who, in addition to what she already knew, had been well posted in her interview with Mr. Ryland, as regarded the affairs of Lucille's family. "I know," she continued, "that your position here is not altogether congenial, Miss Stanhope, and I should rejoice to see you resorted to your rightful place in a home of your own."

"Thank you," said Lucille.

"Mr. Ryland is waiting. Perhaps you had better go to the parlor at once," said Mrs. Stacy.

But Lucille ran up to her room to put on fresh collar and cuffs—she determined not to change her neat dress—and as she smoothed her hair, she thought of the day, nearly three years before, when Richard Ryland paid her a parting call, before he went to Germany in the interests of a business house.

She recalled his agitation, and how she had fancied he cared for her, and would not speak because she was rich and he was not.

The cases were reversed now. But it was only as a friend—oh, of course, only as a friend that he had asked to see her.

She went down to the back parlor with a beating heart. Tall and handsome and manly, Richard Ryland rose to meet her, imprisoning both her hands.

"Oh, Miss Stanhope! oh, Lucille, what does this mean? What does it mean?" was his greeting.

Lucille rallied her courage, and lifting her beautiful eyes to his, said, sweetly: "It means I am very glad to see you again, Mr. Ryland."

"And so am I to see you! But here! In this dress, touching her white apron. 'Down in the dining-room—it bewilders me! Mrs. Stacy has tried to tell me something—I know you have lost your father—but tell me your story yourself, Lucille. I ask for the sake of our old friendship.'"

He drew her down on a sofa, and she told her little story simply.

"You are a brave, noble girl, and I honor you for it," he cried, pressing close the hands he had not released. "But it must not be any longer, Lucille. Do you know why I went away, and what I came back for?"

"No," breathed Lucille.

"I went because I loved you, to earn the right to give you a home suited to you, if you would accept it. I have succeeded—I am now partner in the house which sent me out as a clerk, and I have a right to have a home and a wife. I can have a home of ease and comfort, if not affluence. And I want you, Lucille, my darling so long loved, to share it with me. Will you, dear? Can you love me, Lucille, well enough to give all your life to me?"

Lucille's answer I will not give, further than to say there were two happy hearts in that little back parlor just then. "How strangely things work out!" said Richard, a little later. "I met Glover in the street this morning, and accepted his invitation to dine here with him, intending to take the evening train for Philadelphia to see you, Lucille. Had I gone there, I might have had no end of trouble to find you. What a lucky chance! No, not chance, it was Providence," he added, almost solemnly. "And now, Lucille, we must go home at once, to Harry and Helen, and let Mrs. Stacy get some one else."

But Lucille said no; Mrs. Stacy had been very kind, and she would not leave her so. She would go home for the evening, but she should return and stay till some one came to take her place.

This she did. But Madam Stacy soon found another girl, and gladly released Lucille, being really, as she said, rejoiced to see her in her rightful position in society.

Helen's joy and delight knew no bounds. She made more fuss over Dick than Lucille herself, and if ever a woman enjoyed anything, Helen enjoyed the preparations for Richard and Lucille's wedding, which occurred a few weeks later.

And, too, she quite forgave Lucille's independence, for she had to acknowledge that there was nothing lost.

Border Tales.

Old Grizzly as a Diplomatist.

BY RALPH RINGWOOD.

ONE of the locations selected by Old Grizzly wherein to bring under subjection and train the "varmints," as they were successively hunted down or trapped, was amid the fastnesses of the Wind River Mountains, lying south-eastward of Fremont's Peak, and was remarkable, not only as a position of extraordinary strength, but for being so singularly well adapted to the purpose for which it was used.

"I hunted that kentry close, boys, fur menny a day, I tell yer, afore I foun' the place as adzackly suited me; but, when I did like onto this hyar leetle arrangement, I knowed my labors war at a send—'thet an', my labors uv huntin' a place. Why, dum my ole moccasins, if I doesn't b'leve thet I ked hold the satteration ag'in' the whole Crow nation, wi' ther Blackfoot throwed in."

A description of the place, though it would probably be interesting to the reader, is in no way necessary to the matter in hand, and it will be sufficient to say that it was indeed a natural fortress, and could be, as the old bear-hunter had said, held by a determined, well-armed man against any force that would be likely to attack it.

In fact it could be, by a simple contrivance of the scout's, rendered in an instant almost impregnable, and it was this fact which, in a great measure, led to the very unusual events about to be related.

For more than two years the "Man of the Bears," as Old Grizzly was known among all the Indian tribes from the headwaters of the Missouri to the mouth of the Rio Grande, lived undisturbed in his stronghold.

Indeed, he was not only not molested by the red-skins, but they often actually assisted him in capturing and bringing in some particularly savage "varmint" which otherwise would have proved "too much" for the brave and indefatigable trapper.

The "range" was a rich one in other respects than furnishing animals to increase the hunter's "family." Game of all kinds, from beaver down, abounded in the greatest plenty, and, having free scope, Old Grizzly rapidly accumulated a store of pelts far exceeding in value any that he had ever before secured in the same length of time.

But, the lay-out war too good to last allers," said the trapper, and presently troubles arose that came near ending disastrously, and which certainly would have done so but for the cool head and unflinching courage of the bear-trapper.

In the spring of the third year of Old Grizzly's occupation of his fortress, the great Crow nation declared war against a neighboring tribe, a branch of the Sioux, lying along the headwaters of the Yampa river, and for several months the conflict raged with the utmost fury around the hunter's camp.

During the earlier days of the war, Old Grizzly, by means of a passing war-party, sent word to the head chief of the Crows that he desired an audience with a view to making, between himself and his tribe, a lasting treaty of peace.

The request, or rather demand, for such the language of the hunter caused it to be, was at once complied with, and *Mis-ke-mote skin-na*—The Iron Horn—met him half-way, and opened negotiations at once.

"Ther counsil-groun," said Old Grizzly—whom we will permit to tell his own story in his own way—"war un'erneath a big oak, an' thar me an' Iron Horn met an' talked ther matter over while thre or four hundred warriors an' young men squatted down on ther heels out on ther perrairy an' waited until ther confaberation was at a end."

"I tell you, boys, thet ther ole Iron Horn war jess a whole team an' a big bob-tail brindle bull-dog un'er the waggin, as I onc' hear a missionary chap say."

"He war all thet fur cuteness; an' smart, oh, no! I guess he warn't much! Why, when we got a-talkin', or rather when he got at it, fur I couldn't get no chance, I be durned if ther nigger didn't perpose thet fur my part war ther barg'in I shed give up my leetle ranch, an' all the b'ars, which he sed war his anyway, an' mostly all ther pelts, not ter speak uv my two extra rifles, one on 'em, it war guv to me by General Freeman, throwin' a ball eighteen to ther pound. Don't she, Rubie?"

"She jess doose, an' she throws 'em hard," grunted Rubie.

"He did, by jingo! an' when I axed ther ole thief what he war goin' to do, he ups an' sez he how him an' his young men 'd see thet I didn't get hurt nor merlested by enny uv ther other red-skins."

"Fish! An' what did 'e say, Grizzly?" asked Rubie.

"I jess took an' pulled down this 'ere under eye-lid an' winked w' t'other eye, an' I wish I may die ef ther chased ole rigs didn't bust out larin'."

"He sed it warn't no use tryin' thet on, an' es fur my givin' up the ranch, I tole him I shedd'n't do it, an' ef he warn't thet place bad, why fur him to come an' take it."

"Arter thet, we got to bizness, an' the up-shot uv it war thet we made a fast-rate treaty, by which they war to let me alone an' I war to keep hands off them an' not help ther enemies none."

"Well, back home I goes, an' the fust chance I got I sent ther same message to ther other tribe's head chief; 'twar thet ole sinner *Mah-to-thee-ga*, Rubie."

"Ther Little Bar! I knows him," said the trapper.

"At fust he as good as tole me to go to—, but I sent word ag'in thet ef he didn't kem to tarm's I'd jine the Crows w' all my forces—the b'ars, yer know—an' thet fetched him."

"Well, we hed a meetin', an' durn my ole moccasins ef ther Bar didn't warn't more'n Iron Horn did, but I fixed him, an' ther treaty war signed on two pieces ov bark, an' I took my piece home an' put it away 'mong the pelts."

"I hed got ther imp's jess whar I warn't 'em now, an' ther next thing war to fetch about another treaty, one atween ther two tribes, fur, yer see, as long es they fit an' skrimmaged over ther kentry, raisin' ther devil day an' night w' ther shootin' an' yowlin', thar warn't no more chance for game; an' es fur the b'ars, they was all fixin' to leave."